

Senator Howard A. Stephenson proposes the following substitute bill:

UTAH BROADBAND FRIENDLY STATE - JOINT RESOLUTION

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Howard A. Stephenson

House Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This joint resolution of the Legislature urges the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Utah League of Cities and Towns to work with Utah's municipal leaders and private providers to help Utah become a fully "broadband friendly" state.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ urges the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Utah League of Cities and Towns to work with Utah's municipal leaders and private providers to develop a comprehensive plan to become a fully "broadband friendly" state; and
- ▶ urges the Governor's Office of Economic Development to work in concert with the Utah League of Cities and Towns and private providers to offer support, encouragement, and technical expertise to Utah's cities and towns in promoting the goal of broadband connectivity to every Utah home and business.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, since its founding, Utah has recognized and embraced the need to build



26 today for the growth and prosperity of future generations;

27 WHEREAS, among the first acts of our pioneer forebears was the construction of
28 irrigation systems and roads and city grids;

29 WHEREAS, these early steps formed the foundation of the state to the present day and
30 reflected a commitment to place completion of vital infrastructure above comfort or
31 convenience and to sacrifice for the future good;

32 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the state of Utah recognizes that, in the future, all
33 advancement in every vital field of endeavor -- education, job creation, business, health care,
34 public safety, scientific research, and all forms of information -- will depend upon full digital
35 connectivity;

36 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the state of Utah recognizes the state's need to compete
37 in a world economy with human and natural resources and that broadband technology opens
38 doors to Utah students of all ages;

39 WHEREAS, Utah has developed a thriving high-tech sector, employing thousands and
40 contributing to the general prosperity of all;

41 WHEREAS, businesses looking to build, relocate, or invest in Utah will include in their
42 considerations the geographic and technological status of the state's digital infrastructure;

43 WHEREAS, Utah's cities and towns are the government entities able to encourage and
44 facilitate private sector expansion of broadband optic technology throughout the state;

45 WHEREAS, cities and towns are ideally positioned to expedite the private sector
46 deployment of broadband networks by streamlining permitting, facility siting, rights-of-way,
47 building codes, planning, pole and conduit availability, and other impediments to full
48 construction;

49 WHEREAS, a city or town designation of "broadband deployed," "broadband ready," or
50 "broadband friendly" would be a useful distinction in recruiting and retaining businesses for
51 cities and towns;

52 WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of Economic Development is tasked with
53 encouraging the creation and development of economic expansion within Utah's borders and
54 recognizes fully the need for universal digital connectivity;

55 WHEREAS, the Utah League of Cities and Towns represents and assists Utah's cities
56 and towns as a whole on a host of issues; and

57 WHEREAS, the Utah League of Cities and Towns and the Governor's Office of
58 Economic Development are willing to coordinate efforts to encourage "broadband friendly"
59 communities throughout Utah and to work in concert with Utah's cities and towns and private
60 providers:

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah
62 urges the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Utah League of Cities and
63 Towns to work with Utah's city and town leaders and private providers to develop a
64 comprehensive plan to become a fully "broadband friendly" state.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah urges the
66 Governor's Office of Economic Development to work in concert with the Utah League of
67 Cities and Towns and private providers to offer support, encouragement, and technical
68 expertise to Utah's cities and towns in promoting the goal of broadband connectivity to every
69 Utah home and business.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor's
71 Office of Economic Development, private providers through the posting of a link to the
72 resolution on the Governor's Office of Economic Development's website, and the Utah League
73 of Cities and Towns for distribution to its members.