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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2007

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - ELECTRONIC
TELECOMMUNICATIONS - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Introduced By: Representative Amy C. Rice

Date Introduced: March 01, 2007

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND
2 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 14.6

4 RHODE ISLAND ELECTRONIC TELECOMMUNICATION OPEN INFRASTRUCTURE

5 ACT

6 **42-14.6-1. Short title. --** This act shall be known and may be cited as, the "Rhode Island
7 Electronic Telecommunication Open Infrastructure Act."

8 **42-14.6-2. Legislative findings and purpose. --** (1) The Internet revolution is driving
9 today's economy.

10 (2) Information technology offers economic opportunities, higher living standards, more
11 individual choices, and increased opportunities to participate in government and public life.

12 (3) The past decade has brought considerable advancement in worldwide
13 telecommunications. To remain competitive in the information-based global economy, the state,
14 its people, and its institutions must fully utilize cutting-edge telecommunication and Internet
15 strategies.

16 (4) Broadband Internet access is essential to provide state residents with enhanced
17 educational opportunities, better health care, more effective public safety and homeland security,
18 and a stronger economy.

1 (5) Purpose. This act is enacted to support and improve education, health care, public
2 safety and economic security by increasing access to the Internet and other new technologies.

3 **42-14.6-3. Definitions.** -- For the purpose of this chapter, unless the context otherwise
4 requires:

5 (1) "Information equipment" means central processing units, front-end processing units,
6 miniprocessors, microprocessors, and related peripheral equipment such as data storage devices,
7 networking equipment, routers, document scanners, data entry equipment, terminal controllers,
8 data terminal equipment, and computer-based word processing systems other than memory
9 typewriters.

10 (2) "Information systems" means computer-based information equipment and related
11 services designed for the automated transmission, storage, manipulation and retrieval of data by
12 electronic or mechanical means.

13 (3) "Information technology" means data processing and telecommunications hardware,
14 software, services, supplies, personnel, maintenance and training, and includes the programs and
15 routines used to employ and control the capabilities of data processing hardware.

16 (4) "Local government" means any county or municipality, or any of their entities.

17 (5) "Technology infrastructure" means information equipment, information systems,
18 information technology and facilities, lines, and services designed for or used for the
19 transmission, emission or reception of signs, signals, writings, images or sounds by wire, radio,
20 microwave, or other electromagnetic or optical systems, related hardware, software, and
21 programming, and specifically including, but not limited to, all features, facilities, equipment,
22 systems, functions, programming, and capabilities, and technical support used in providing or
23 related to:

24 (a) Cable service as defined in 47 U.S.C. 522(6);

25 (b) Telecommunications service as defined in 47 U.S.C. 153(46);

26 (c) Information service as defined in 47 U.S.C. 153(20);

27 (d) Advanced services as defined in 47 CFR 51.5;

28 (e) Broadband Internet service; and

29 (f) Internet protocol enabled services.

30 **42-14.6-4. Innovation center.** -- (a) There is hereby created within the department of
31 business regulation, an office called the Innovation Center. The primary responsibility of the
32 Innovation Center is to encourage the development and implementation of technology
33 infrastructure for public and private uses throughout the state.

34 (b) The Innovation Center may solicit and expend any gift, grant, contribution, bequest,

1 endowment or other money for the purposes of this section. Any transfer of endowment or other
2 assets to the center shall be formalized in a memorandum of agreement to assure, at a minimum,
3 that any restrictions governing the future disposition of funds are observed.

4 (c) The department of business regulation shall promulgate rules to fulfill the purposes of
5 this section.

6 **42-14.6-5. Technology study.** -- (a) The Innovation Center shall conduct a study of
7 technology infrastructure in the state and compare existing technology infrastructure to best
8 practices in the United States.

9 (b) In conducting its study, the Innovation Center shall consider resources and technical
10 support available through other entities and agencies, both public and private, including the state
11 college and university systems, regional planning organizations, state high technology
12 associations, and the state chamber of commerce.

13 (c) By July 1, 2008, the Innovation Center shall issue a public report on its study. The
14 report shall include:

15 (1) The current condition of technology infrastructure in the state;

16 (2) Options and strategies for upgrading technology infrastructure in the state;

17 (3) Options and strategies for encouraging technology cooperation and partnerships
18 among state government, local government, private business, and institutions of higher education;

19 (4) Expected condition of technology infrastructure if the state does nothing to encourage
20 it; and

21 (5) Recommendations for actions by the state to encourage improvements in technology
22 infrastructure.

23 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - ELECTRONIC
TELECOMMUNICATIONS - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1 This act would create an "Innovation Center" within the department of business
2 regulation for the purpose of encouraging development, and implementation of technology
3 infrastructure.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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