

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2012

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By: Senators Elliott, L. Chesterfield, S. Harrelson, G. Jeffress, J. Jeffress, D. Johnson

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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TO ENCOURAGE THE SENATE OF THE 88TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TO SUPPORT THE COLLABORATION OF STATE AND PRIVATE
SECTORS TO DEVELOP A LONG-RANGE PLAN TO ADDRESS THE
CRITICAL NEED FOR IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY TO BROADBAND
CONNECTIVITY, BROADBAND CAPACITY, AND RELATED
INTERNET TECHNOLOGY FOR ARKANSAS'S COMMUNITIES AND
PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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Subtitle

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TO ENCOURAGE THE SENATE TO SUPPORT THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A LONG-RANGE PLAN TO
ADDRESS THE CRITICAL NEED FOR IMPROVED
ACCESSIBILITY TO BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY
AND CAPACITY FOR ARKANSAS'S COMMUNITIES
AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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WHEREAS, in recent years, the state has worked to increase Internet
access serving the medical community and institutions of higher education;
and

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WHEREAS, the promise of that improved accessibility to broadband
connectivity, broadband capacity, and related Internet technology has not
reached many rural communities and public school districts whose economic and
educational needs remain underserved; and

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WHEREAS, research studies have shown that improved accessibility to
broadband connectivity, broadband capacity, and related Internet technology
benefits rural economic development through increased market access, higher
salaries and employment opportunities, and educational improvements; and



1 WHEREAS, research has also shown that improved accessibility to
2 broadband connectivity, broadband capacity, and related Internet technology
3 improves the overall quality of life through more efficient delivery of
4 government services, improved health care, and instant access to information
5 locally, nationally, and globally; and

6 WHEREAS, the State Board of Education will implement Common Core
7 assessments in Arkansas public schools beginning with the 2014-2015 school
8 year, which will be conducted electronically and therefore require increased
9 accessibility to broadband connectivity, broadband capacity, and related
10 Internet technology for Arkansas public schools; and

11 WHEREAS, public school students will further benefit from the improved
12 delivery of twenty-first century educational services using broadband
13 connectivity, broadband capacity, and Internet technology; and

14 WHEREAS, a long-range plan should be developed in collaboration with
15 the private sector to provide improved accessibility to broadband
16 connectivity, broadband capacity, and related Internet technology to improve
17 economic development, education, and quality of life for all Arkansans,
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19 NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 88TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
21 ARKANSAS:

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23 That the Senate support the collaboration of state and private sectors
24 to:

25 (1) Identify the needs and priorities of Arkansas communities and
26 public school districts for improved accessibility to broadband connectivity,
27 broadband capacity, and related Internet technology; and

28 (2) Develop a long-range plan for addressing those needs by October 1,
29 2012.
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate encourage the completion of a
32 long-range plan and the presentation of a report on that plan to the
33 Legislative Council and Joint Budget Committee for their consideration in the
34 budget hearings for the 2013 regular session of the 89th General Assembly.
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