

**ARKANSAS SENATE**  
85th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2005  
**Amendment Form**

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**Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 980**

"TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BY FURTHERING  
THE GOAL OF PROVIDING ALL ARKANSANS WITH THE ABILITY TO CONNECT TO  
THE WORLD WIDE WEB VIA BROADBAND."

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**Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill No. 980.**

Amend Senate Bill No. 980 as engrossed, S3/14/05 (version: 03-14-2005 14:01):

Page 1, delete lines 9 through 14 and substitute the following:

"AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EXPANSION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADBAND SERVICES TO UNDERSERVED AREAS WITHIN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

AND

Page 1, delete lines 17 through 21 and substitute the following:

"TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EXPANSION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADBAND SERVICES WITHIN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS."

AND

Delete everything after the Enacting Clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. (a) There is created the Telecommunications Study Task Force.

(b) The task force shall be composed of twelve (12) members as follows:

(1) One (1) member shall be appointed by the Governor;

(2) Two (2) members shall be appointed by the President Pro

Tempore of the Senate;

(3) Two (2) members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the

House of Representatives;

(4) The Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Insurance and  
Commerce;

(5) The Chair of the House Interim Committee on Insurance and  
Commerce;

(6) The Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Revenue and  
Taxation;

(7) The Chair of the House Interim Committee on Revenue and  
Taxation;



(8) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Technology and Legislative Affairs;

(9) The Chair of the House Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology; and

(10) The Director of the Department of Finance and Administration or his or her designee.

(c) The terms of the members of the task force shall expire on December 31, 2006.

(d) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, a successor shall be appointed in the same manner as provided for the initial appointment.

(e) A chairperson shall be selected by the members of the task force.

(f) The chair shall call the first meeting, which shall be held no later than sixty (60) days after the effective date of this act.

(g) The task force shall meet no less than quarterly at dates to be determined by the chair.

(h) The members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but may receive expense reimbursement in accordance with § 25-16-902, if funds are available.

(i) The task force shall receive staff support from the Bureau of Legislative Research.

SECTION 2. (a) The purpose of the Telecommunications Study Task Force is to study and make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on ways to expand telecommunications and broadband services to underserved areas within the State of Arkansas.

(b) The task force shall:

(1) Assess the need of expanding telecommunications and broadband services, including wireless telecommunications services, satellite-based telecommunications services, cable television services, and power-line based high speed telecommunications services;

(2) Determine the feasibility of expanding telecommunications and broadband services throughout the State of Arkansas;

(3) Determine the financial costs to the telecommunications companies, broadband providers, and the consumers involved in expanding telecommunications and broadband services throughout the State of Arkansas; and

(4) Determine the feasibility of any tax incentives for telecommunications companies or broadband providers to expand their services.

(c)(1) The findings and recommendations of the task force shall be submitted to the Legislative Council, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(2) The task force shall make its final report along with any recommendations for proposed legislation to the Legislative Council no later than October 1, 2006."

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and \_\_\_\_\_

By: Senator J. Bookout

KWH/KSW - 03-18-2005 09:36

KWH299

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Secretary