

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 82nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1999

A Bill

SENATE BILL 327

4
5 By: Senator Gordon
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE COMMISSION ON INFORMATION AGE
10 COMMUNITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

11
12
13 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE COMMISSION ON
14 INFORMATION AGE COMMUNITIES."

15
16
17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
18

19 SECTION 1. This act may be cited as and shall be known as "Commission
20 on Information Age Communities Act."
21

22 SECTION 2. As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires,
23 the term "communities" means lawfully incorporated municipalities,
24 unincorporated areas, counties, or any combination thereof.
25

26 SECTION 3. (a) The General Assembly finds and declares that the
27 economic wellbeing of Arkansas and its communities depends on the belief of
28 its citizens that their state and community are places where families can live
29 in safety and security, where quality health care is readily available, where
30 the educational system meets the needs of learners of all ages, where
31 government services are provided in an efficient and effective manner, where
32 opportunities for business and commercial growth are encouraged and supported,
33 and where the state's natural heritage and quality of life are protected and
34 enjoyed.

35 (b) The General Assembly further finds and determines that the economic
36 and societal changes that have occurred in the last half of the twentieth

1 century have been driven primarily by major advances in the fields of science
 2 and technology. These advances have caused unanticipated and dramatic shifts
 3 in the educational and skill requirements for the nation's workforce and wide
 4 disparities in the availability of economic opportunities within and between
 5 states.

6 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly to provide the communities
 7 of this state with a mechanism to meet the economic and societal challenges
 8 that have and will continue to arise as new technologies are developed and
 9 marketed.

10 (d) It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the mechanism
 11 will prepare Arkansas communities and government agencies to deal with
 12 economic and societal challenges by encouraging:

13 (1) A vision for the twenty-first century in which Arkansas will
 14 have an information ready citizenry and state leaders will be knowledgeable
 15 about information age budget policy;

16 (2) Collaborative partnering, the essential behavior of the
 17 twenty-first century economy;

18 (3) Organizational and budgeting collaboration for connectivity
 19 investments and investments in people networks;

20 (4) Links between community needs and statewide network
 21 applications;

22 (5) Economic development expansion strategies that are based on
 23 information connectivity; and

24 (6) Integration of existing state resources as the embodiment of
 25 planned, long-term change.

26
 27 SECTION 4. (a) There is created the Commission on Information Age
 28 Communities, which shall consist of nine (9) voting members:

29 (1) The president of the Arkansas Science and Technology
 30 Authority;

31 (2) The director of the Arkansas Department of Economic
 32 Development;

33 (3) The director of the Department of Finance and Administration;

34 (4) The director of the Department of Information Systems;

35 (5) The director of the Department of Education;

36 (6) The director of the Department of Higher Education;

1 (7) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor from a list of
2 names submitted by the membership of the commission who are knowledgeable in
3 the various aspects of information technology and community development.

4 (b) The members appointed by the Governor shall serve a staggered three
5 (3) year term. The initial members shall be appointed so that one (1) member
6 is appointed for a term of three (3) years, one (1) member is appointed for a
7 term of two (2) years, and one (1) member is appointed for a term of one (1)
8 year.

9 (c) The Governor shall select the initial chairperson from the
10 commission membership. Thereafter the board shall annually elect one (1)
11 member from the commission as chairperson of the commission. The commission
12 may also elect a vice-chairperson and a secretary.

13 (d) Five (5) members of the commission shall constitute a quorum and
14 the affirmative vote of five (5) members shall be necessary for any action
15 taken by the board. No vacancy in the membership of the commission shall
16 impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the
17 duties of the commission. Members of the commission shall serve without
18 compensation.

19 (e) The commission shall meet at least semi-annually.

20 (f) The commission will report at least annually to the Governor and
21 the joint committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology
22 regarding the status of its work.

23 (g)(1) In carrying out its functions, the commission may create such
24 advisory committees as it may deem necessary.

25 (2) The memberships of these advisory committees may include both
26 members and staff of the commission, and other persons drawn from sources
27 other than the commission, all of whom shall serve at the pleasure of the
28 commission.

29 (3) Members of such advisory committees shall serve without
30 compensation for their membership on the committees.

31
32 SECTION 5. (a) The commission shall be a body corporate and politic,
33 having the powers and jurisdiction provided in this act and any additional
34 powers as conferred upon it by the General Assembly or by the people of this
35 state.

36 (b) The commission is authorized and designated to engage in

1 cooperative programs and activities involving the establishment and
2 encouragement of community-based technologies, systems, networks, and services
3 that are designed to enhance the quality of life, educational opportunity, and
4 economic wellbeing for residents of that community.

5 (c) The commission shall have all the powers necessary to carry out its
6 purposes, which shall include, but not be limited to:

7 (1) Make, amend, and repeal bylaws, rules, and regulations for
8 the management of its affairs;

9 (2) Make contracts and execute all instruments necessary or
10 convenient for carrying out its business;

11 (3) Enter into agreements or other transactions with any federal,
12 state, county, or municipal agency and with any individual, corporation, firm,
13 association, or any other entity involving technology, products and services;

14 (4) Appoint officers, employees, consultants, agents, and
15 advisors and prescribe their duties;

16 (5) Appear in its own behalf before boards, commissions,
17 departments, or other agencies of municipal, county, state, or federal
18 government;

19 (6) Accept any and all donations, grants, bequests, and devises,
20 conditional or otherwise, of money, property, services, or other things of
21 value which may be received from the federal government or any agency thereof,
22 any governmental agency, or any institution, person, firm, or corporation,
23 public or private, to be held, used, or applied for any or all of the purposes
24 specified in this chapter, in accordance with the terms and conditions of any
25 such grant. Receipt of each donation or grant shall be detailed annually in
26 the report of the commission and shall include the identity of the donor or
27 lender, the nature of the transaction, and any conditions attaching thereto;

28 (7) Organize, conduct, sponsor, or cooperate in and assist the
29 conduct of, special institutes, conferences, demonstrations, and studies
30 relating to the stimulation and formulation of community-based technologies,
31 systems, networks, and services that are designed to enhance the quality of
32 life, educational opportunity, and economic wellbeing for residents of that
33 community;

34 (8) Exercise any other powers necessary for the operation and
35 functioning of the commission within the purposes authorized in this act.

36

1 SECTION 6. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
 2 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
 3 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

4
 5 SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
 6 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
 7 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
 8 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
 9 act are declared to be severable.

10
 11 SECTION 8. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
 12 hereby repealed.

13
 14 SECTION 9. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General
 15 Assembly that the economic and societal changes that have occurred in the last
 16 half of the twentieth century have been driven primarily by major advances in
 17 the fields of science and technology; that these advances have caused
 18 unanticipated and dramatic shifts in the educational and skill requirements
 19 for the nation's workforce and wide disparities in the availability of
 20 economic opportunities within and between states; and therefore this act is
 21 necessary because of the rapid change in technology and resulting economic
 22 opportunities. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act
 23 being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health
 24 and safety shall become effective on July 1, 1999.