

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007

A Bill

SENATE BILL 924

4
5 By: Senator Capps
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION AND OPERATION
10 OF THE CONNECT ARKANSAS NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO
11 PROMOTE BROADBAND EDUCATION AND DEPLOYMENT IN
12 ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

14
15 TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION AND
16 OPERATION OF THE CONNECT ARKANSAS
17 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO PROMOTE
18 BROADBAND EDUCATION AND DEPLOYMENT IN
19 ARKANSAS.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
23

24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 4 is amended to add an additional
25 chapter to read as follows:

26 Chapter 112 – Connect Arkansas Broadband Program

27 4-112-101. Short title.

28 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Connect Arkansas
29 Broadband Act".
30

31 4-112-102. Definitions.

32 As used in this chapter:

33 (1) "Broadband" means any service used to provide Internet
34 access at a minimum of three hundred eighty-four kilobites per second (384
35 kbps) in either direction;

36 (2) "Broadband backbone" means the collection of high capacity



broadband infrastructure used to deliver broadband service to communities, counties, or regions of the State of Arkansas;

(3) "Last mile broadband" means the broadband media used to deliver broadband to a user location such as a home or an office building; and

(4) "Participants" means the employees of Connect Arkansas and all entities participating in Connect Arkansas programs to facilitate the preparation of the people and businesses of Arkansas for the use of broadband and to facilitate the deployment of broadband service to individual and organizational consumers in Arkansas.

4-112-103. Connect Arkansas – Nonprofit organization.

(a) The Arkansas Capitol Corporation may form a nonprofit corporation named "Connect Arkansas" to:

(1) Prepare the people and businesses of Arkansas to secure the economic, educational, health, social, and other benefits available via broadband use; and

(2) Facilitate the availability of broadband service to every home and business in Arkansas.

(b) The Arkansas Science and Technology Authority may make grants from funds available for the purpose of establishing Connect Arkansas.

(c) Connect Arkansas will promote broadband-based development in Arkansas, with the goals of facilitating:

(1) Broadband education so that the citizens of every home and business in Arkansas can take full advantage of broadband services; and

(2) The availability of broadband service to broadband educated citizens in every home and business in Arkansas by the end of the year 2012.

(d) Recognizing that such services as geographical information system data delivery and high definition television programs require increasingly huge demands in bandwidth, Connect Arkansas will promote broadband backbone networks that will serve all of Arkansas with the bandwidth to support Arkansas home and business needs into the foreseeable future.

4-112-104. Creation of the Arkansas Broadband Advisory Council.

(a) The Arkansas Broadband Advisory Council is created to:

(1) Monitor the broadband based development efforts of other

1 states and nations in areas such as business, education, and health; and

2 (2) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly on policies
3 related to making affordable broadband available to every Arkansas home and
4 business.

5 (b) The council shall include:

6 (1) One (1) representative from each broadband provider
7 association that exists in the state on the effective date of this chapter
8 including without limitation the Arkansas Cable Telecommunications
9 Association and the Arkansas Telecommunications Association;

10 (2) Three (3) members to be appointed by the Governor;

11 (3) Three (3) members to be appointed by the President Pro
12 Tempore of the Arkansas Senate; and

13 (4) Three (3) members to be appointed by the Speaker of the
14 Arkansas House of Representatives.

15 (c) The council shall:

16 (1) Provide an annual report to the Governor and the General
17 Assembly;

18 (2) Provide a final report to the Governor and the General
19 Assembly through the year ending December 31, 2011; and

20 (3) Expire on June 30, 2012.

21
22 4-112-105. Broadband service registration.

23 (a) Connect Arkansas will establish a method for broadband service
24 providers to register areas in which they provide broadband service to enable
25 Connect Arkansas to target locations where broadband is not currently offered
26 to Arkansas homes and businesses.

27 (b) Specific registration requirements will be established by Connect
28 Arkansas, but competitive provider information shall be kept confidential by
29 Connect Arkansas.

30 (c) Connect Arkansas shall execute nondisclosure agreements with
31 providers to guarantee confidentiality.

32 (d) Connect Arkansas may disclose areas that are registered, the types
33 of broadband available in registered areas, and any provider information that
34 the provider identifies as acceptable for disclosure.

35 (e) Registered areas are subject to verification by Connect Arkansas
36 and by the affected counties, but competitive service provider information

1 shall not be released outside of Connect Arkansas.

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