

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**HOUSE DRH50885-LR-131E (4/11)**

Short Title:   Joint Broadband Access Task Force/Funds. (Public)

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Sponsors:    Representative Tolson.

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Referred to:

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1                                   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT CREATING THE JOINT BROADBAND ACCESS TASK FORCE AND  
3 APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5           **SECTION 1.(a)** There is created the Joint Broadband Task Force (Task Force).  
6 The purpose of the Task Force is to bring together public and private Internet access providers,  
7 legislators, and others to:

- 8           (1) Examine issues related to last mile broadband deployments in the State and  
9               to improving the rate at which the general public accesses high speed  
10              broadband.  
11           (2) Consider incentives and other funding mechanisms to advance last mile  
12              deployments.  
13           (3) Review the best and most cost effective ways to address the needs of  
14              communities and households that lack broadband access.  
15           (4) Consider any other matters relating to last mile broadband deployment in  
16              this State.

17           **SECTION 1.(b)** The Task Force shall consist of 21 voting members appointed as  
18 follows:

- 19           (1) Ten members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
20              including:  
21              a. Five members of the House of Representatives.  
22              b. One representative of the North Carolina League of Municipalities.  
23              c. One representative of the North Carolina Association of County  
24                 Commissioners.  
25              d. One representative of a large telephone company that provides high-  
26                 speed Internet service to 200,000 or more access lines.  
27              e. One representative of a wireless high-speed Internet access provider.  
28              f. One member of the general public.  
29           (2) Ten members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,  
30              including:  
31              a. Five members of the Senate.  
32              b. One representative of the North Carolina League of Municipalities.  
33              c. One representative of the North Carolina Association of County  
34                 Commissioners.



- 1 d. One representative of a small telephone company that provides high-  
2 speed Internet service to less than 200,000 access lines.  
3 e. One representative of a cable television company that provides high-  
4 speed Internet access.  
5 f. One member of the general public.  
6 (3) One member elected by a vote of the other members of the Task Force from  
7 nominees recommended by municipalities providing high-speed Internet  
8 access within the State.

9 **SECTION 1.(c)** The State Chief Information Officer, a member of the Utilities  
10 Commission, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation (or the Secretary's designee),  
11 and a representative of the e-NC Authority shall serve as nonvoting ex officio members of the  
12 Task Force.

13 **SECTION 2.** The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro  
14 Tempore of the Senate each shall appoint a cochair for the Task Force. The Task Force may  
15 contract for consultant services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02. Upon approval of the  
16 Legislative Services Commission, the Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional and  
17 clerical staff to assist in the work of the Task Force. Clerical staff shall be furnished through the  
18 offices of the House of Representatives' and the Senate's Directors of Legislative Assistants.  
19 The Task Force may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building upon  
20 the approval of the Legislative Services Commission. The appointing authority shall fill  
21 vacancies. The Task Force, while in the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all the  
22 powers provided under the provisions of G.S. 120-19 through G.S. 120-19.4, including the  
23 power to request all officers, agents, agencies, and departments of the State to provide any  
24 information, data, or documents within their possession, ascertainable from their records, or  
25 otherwise available to them and the power to subpoena witnesses. Members of the Task Force  
26 shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances as follows:

- 27 (1) Members of the General Assembly, at the rate established in G.S. 120-3.1.  
28 (2) Members who are officials or employees of the State or of local government  
29 agencies, at the rate established in G.S. 138-6.  
30 (3) All other members, at the rate established in G.S. 138-5.

31 **SECTION 3.** The Task Force shall report to the 2011 General Assembly and shall  
32 terminate upon filing its final report.

33 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General  
34 Assembly the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for the 2010-2011 fiscal year to  
35 fund the work of the Task Force.

36 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2010.