

# HB2476



## 94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2005 and 2006

HB2476

Introduced 02/17/05, by Rep. Constance A. Howard - Monique D. Davis - Lovana Jones

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Connect Illinois Act. Establishes the Illinois Broadband Development Authority to coordinate the spread of broadband telecommunications technology in Illinois in order to achieve competition, affordability, and universal broadband service and to secure the State's telecommunications and economic future. Repeals the Act and dissolves the Authority on January 1, 2010.

LRB094 10190 MKM 40457 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning telecommunications.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Connect Illinois Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative purpose. The General Assembly finds  
7 that the future economic vitality of the State of Illinois  
8 depends on participation in the growing global information  
9 economy and, for this reason, a State authority coordinating  
10 the spread of broadband telecommunications technology is in the  
11 economic interest of the people of Illinois. The General  
12 Assembly further finds that current State telecommunications  
13 policy does not encourage the rapid and widespread deployment  
14 of state-of-the-art broadband technology and that Illinois and  
15 the United States as a whole have fallen drastically behind  
16 other states and nations in the capacity, the availability, and  
17 the affordability of broadband services. The purpose of this  
18 Act is to accomplish the goals of competition, affordability,  
19 and universal broadband service and to secure the State's  
20 telecommunications and economic future.

21 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

22 "Authority" means the Illinois Broadband Deployment  
23 Authority established under this Act.

24 "Broadband" means any technology that provides  
25 bidirectional communications transmissions at speeds of at  
26 least one megabit per second (1 mbps).

27 "Broadband deployment" means the spread of any technology  
28 that provides bidirectional communications transmissions at  
29 speeds of at least 1 mbps.

30 "Telecommunications infrastructure" means all of the  
31 physical components of the transmission of data and voice

1 communication.

2 Section 15. Illinois Broadband Deployment Authority.

3 (a) The Illinois Broadband Deployment Authority is created  
4 as a body politic and corporate. The Authority shall consist of  
5 a 12-member board of directors as follows:

6 (1) The Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve as both  
7 the chairman and a voting member of the board.

8 (2) The Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity,  
9 or the Director's designee.

10 (3) The Executive Director of the Illinois Commerce  
11 Commission, or the Executive Director's designee.

12 (4) The Secretary of Transportation, or the  
13 Secretary's designee.

14 (5) The Executive Director of the Illinois Toll Highway  
15 Authority, or the Executive Director's designee.

16 (6) The Director of the Illinois Finance Authority, or  
17 the Director's designee.

18 (7) Two members appointed by the Governor.

19 (8) One member appointed by each of the following: the  
20 Senate President, the Senate Minority Leader, the Speaker  
21 of the House, and the House Minority Leader.

22 Appointments to the board shall be made with consideration  
23 of the geographic, gender, and racial diversity of the State.  
24 The board shall include members representing rural areas,  
25 underserved urban areas, consumer interests, community  
26 interests, and commercial interests, including competitive  
27 local exchange carriers. Members of the board of directors  
28 shall serve 2-year terms. The board of directors shall meet at  
29 least quarterly. The board shall have the power to make and  
30 amend bylaws for its operation.

31 All members shall serve without compensation but may be  
32 reimbursed for actual expenses incurred by them in the  
33 performance of the duties of the Authority.

34 (b) The board of directors may seek input from State  
35 agencies not represented on the board, including, but not

1 limited to, the State Board of Education and the Illinois  
2 Century Network Policy Committee and the Department of Central  
3 Management Services, if input from those agencies is needed by  
4 the board to make decisions about the activities of the  
5 Authority.

6 (c) The General Assembly shall appropriate to the Authority  
7 the funding necessary to select only those employees necessary  
8 for the activities of the Authority, to fund the daily  
9 operations of the Authority, and to cover the travel expenses  
10 of the Authority.

11 Section 20. Powers and duties. The Authority shall have all  
12 of the following powers and duties:

13 (1) To seek and distribute private, State, and federal  
14 funding, including grants, loans, or general  
15 appropriations, for the purpose of broadband deployment.

16 (2) To continually assess and catalog the  
17 telecommunications infrastructure of the State of Illinois  
18 for the purpose of determining the present and future needs  
19 of the State with respect to realizing the goals of  
20 competition, affordability, universal service, and  
21 securing the State's telecommunications and economic  
22 future. This includes creating and maintaining a  
23 comprehensive map of the telecommunications infrastructure  
24 in the State. For this purpose, the Authority shall have  
25 the power to collect data from facilities-based  
26 telecommunications companies operating in the State. The  
27 comprehensive map may be created by the Authority or  
28 contracted to another entity by the Authority.

29 (3) To encourage and participate in the coordination of  
30 private and public telecommunications development,  
31 including local and State efforts to realize the goals of  
32 competition, affordability, universal service, and  
33 securing the State's telecommunications and economic  
34 future.

35 (4) To work with the Department of Commerce and

1 Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Commerce Commission,  
2 the Department of Transportation, the Illinois Toll  
3 Highway Authority, the Illinois Finance Authority, the  
4 State Board of Education, and the Illinois Century Network  
5 Policy Committee for the purpose of ensuring consistent and  
6 efficient deployment of telecommunications services  
7 throughout Illinois.

8 (5) To seed and fund local and regional broadband  
9 initiatives throughout the State for the purpose of  
10 supporting broadband demand by educating underserved  
11 populations in applications using computers and broadband  
12 connectivity.

13 (6) To work with and distribute funding to private and  
14 public telecommunications projects in matters related to  
15 the construction, acquisition, improvement, or expansion  
16 of telecommunications infrastructure. This includes, but  
17 is not limited to, acting as a liaison between broadband  
18 deployment projects and any entity controlling rights of  
19 way and other easements necessary for a given broadband  
20 project.

21 (7) To give priority for financial and technical  
22 support to competitive local exchange carriers in areas in  
23 which a majority of market share is held by community  
24 antenna television services and incumbent local exchange  
25 carriers.

26 (8) To enter into joint ventures and partnerships and  
27 to make contracts for the purposes set forth in this Act.

28 (9) To select employees to carry out the daily  
29 operations of the Authority.

30 Section 25. Repeal; dissolution of Authority. This Act is  
31 repealed and the Illinois Broadband Authority is dissolved on  
32 January 1, 2010.