

# HB0754



## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

HB0754

Introduced 2/7/2007, by Rep. Constance A. Howard

#### 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, 2012.

LRB095 10377 WGH 30592 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

1 Authority established under this Act.

2 "Broadband" means any technology that provides  
3 bidirectional communications transmissions at speeds of at  
4 least one megabit per second (1 Mbps).

5 "Broadband deployment" means the spread of any technology  
6 that provides bidirectional communications transmissions at  
7 speeds of at least 1 Mbps.

8 "Telecommunications infrastructure" means all of the  
9 physical components of the transmission of data and voice  
10 communication.

11 Section 15. Illinois Broadband Deployment Authority.

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

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

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

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

21 (4) The Secretary of Transportation, or the  
22 Secretary's designee.

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

25 (6) The Director of the Illinois Finance Authority, or

1 the Director's designee.

2 (7) Two members appointed by the Governor.

3 (8) One member appointed by each of the following: the  
4 Senate President, the Senate Minority Leader, the Speaker  
5 of the House, and the House Minority Leader.

6 Appointments to the board shall be made with consideration  
7 of the geographic, gender, and racial diversity of the State.  
8 The board shall include members representing rural areas,  
9 underserved urban areas, consumer interests, community  
10 interests, and commercial interests, including competitive  
11 local exchange carriers. Members of the board of directors  
12 shall serve 2-year terms. The board of directors shall meet at  
13 least quarterly. The board shall have the power to make and  
14 amend bylaws for its operation.

15 All members shall serve without compensation but may be  
16 reimbursed for actual expenses incurred by them in the  
17 performance of the duties of the Authority.

18 (b) The board of directors may seek input from State  
19 agencies not represented on the board, including, but not  
20 limited to, the State Board of Education, the Illinois Century  
21 Network Policy Committee, and the Department of Central  
22 Management Services, if input from those agencies is needed by  
23 the board to make decisions about the activities of the  
24 Authority.

25 (c) The General Assembly shall appropriate to the Authority  
26 the funding necessary to select only those employees necessary

1 for the activities of the Authority, to fund the daily  
2 operations of the Authority, and to cover the travel expenses  
3 of the Authority.

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

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

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

22 (3) To encourage and participate in the coordination of  
23 private and public telecommunications development,  
24 including local and State efforts to realize the goals of  
25 competition, affordability, universal service, and

1           securing the State's telecommunications and economic  
2           future.

3           (4) To work with the Department of Commerce and  
4           Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Commerce Commission,  
5           the Department of Transportation, the Illinois Toll  
6           Highway Authority, the Illinois Finance Authority, the  
7           State Board of Education, and the Illinois Century Network  
8           Policy Committee for the purpose of ensuring consistent and  
9           efficient deployment of telecommunications services  
10          throughout Illinois.

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

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

24          (7) To give priority for financial and technical  
25          support to competitive local exchange carriers in areas in  
26          which a majority of market share is held by community

1 antenna television services and incumbent local exchange  
2 carriers.

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

5 (9) To select employees to carry out the daily  
6 operations of the Authority.

7 Section 25. Repeal; dissolution of Authority. This Act is  
8 repealed and the Illinois Broadband Authority is dissolved on  
9 January 1, 2012.