



Office of the Speaker  
North Carolina House of Representatives  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1096

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HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HIGH SPEED INTERNET IN RURAL AREAS

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Section 1.** The House Select Committee on High Speed Internet in Rural Areas (hereinafter "Committee") is established by the Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to G.S. 120-19.6(a1) and Rule 26(a) of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the 2007 General Assembly.

**Section 2.** The Committee consists of the 8 members listed below, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Members serve at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of Representatives may dissolve the Committee at any time.

Representative Bill Faison, Chair
Representative Angela Bryant
Representative Jim Gulley
Representative Phillip Haire
Representative James Harrell, III
Representative Thom Tillis
Representative Joe Tolson
Representative Roger West

**Section 3.** The Committee may examine the availability of high speed internet access in rural areas. The Committee may:

1. Consider whether rural areas have adequate access to high speed internet and offer proposals to assure access to high speed internet in rural areas.
2. Examine the impact of high speed internet access on education, small businesses, and agriculture.
3. Evaluate the economic impact of high speed internet access for individuals, counties, and the State of North Carolina.
4. Identify technical issues associated with providing high speed internet access, including the availability of necessary equipment.
5. Identify the potential costs to internet providers.
6. Examine rate considerations, including whether customers will pay the total costs or whether the costs will be spread through the rate-making process.
7. Explore the impact of recent legislation allowing phone companies to provide cable service and high speed internet access.

8. Study any other issue the Committee deems relevant.

**Section 4.** The Committee shall meet upon the call of its Chair. A quorum of the Committee shall be a majority of its members.

**Section 5.** The Committee, while in the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and Article 5A of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes.

**Section 6.** Members of the Committee shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowance as provided in G.S. 120-3.1.

**Section 7.** The expenses of the Committee including per diem, subsistence, travel allowances for Committee members, and contracts for professional or consultant services shall be paid upon the written approval of the Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to G.S. 120-32.02(c) and G.S. 120-35 from funds available to the House of Representatives for its operations. Individual expenses of \$5,000 or less, including per diem, travel, and subsistence expenses of members of the Committee, and clerical expenses shall be paid upon the authorization of the Chair of the Committee. Individual expenses in excess of \$5,000 shall be paid upon the written approval of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**Section 8.** The Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional and clerical staff to assist the Committee in its work. The Director of Legislative Assistants of the House of Representatives shall assign clerical support staff to the Committee.

**Section 9.** The Committee may meet at various locations around the State in order to promote greater public participation in its deliberations.

**Section 10.** The Committee may submit an interim report on the results of the study, including any proposed legislation, on or before May 1, 2008, by filing a copy of the report with the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the House Principal Clerk, and the Legislative Library. The Committee shall submit a final report on the results of its study, including any proposed legislation, to the members of the House of Representatives on or before December 31, 2008, by filing the final report with the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the House Principal Clerk, and the Legislative Library. The Committee terminates on December 31, 2008, or upon the filing of its final report, whichever occurs first.

Effective this 17th day of January, 2008.



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Joe Hackney  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

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