



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

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 2009 General Assembly.

Section 2. The Committee consists of the 11 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 Kelly Alexander
Representative Thom Tillis
Representative Joe Tolson
Representative Roger West
Representative Earl Jones
Representative Marilyn Avila
Representative Lorene Coates

Section 3. The Committee may study the availability of high-speed Internet access in rural areas and in low-wealth, urban areas of the State having a population of 100,000 or more according to the most recent federal decennial census. In conducting its study, the Committee may:

- (1) Consider whether rural and underserved urban areas have adequate access to high-speed Internet and offer proposals to assure access to high speed Internet in these areas.

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- (2) Examine the impact of high-speed Internet access on education, small businesses, agriculture, and medical services.
- (3) Evaluate the economic impact of high-speed Internet access for individuals, cities, 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 administrative actions that can result in immediate promotion of broadband access and usage within the State.
- (9) Make specific recommendations as to how North Carolina can take advantage of opportunities for and eliminate any related barriers to broadband access and adoption.
- (10) Study broadband account usage limits and tiered pricing based, in part or in whole, on data consumption, and penalties and fees for exceeding those limitations.
- (11) Study local government owned and operated communication services.
- (12) Study the use of 911 Funds by Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS).
- (13) 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

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\$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, 2010, 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 February 1, 2011, 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 February 1, 2011, or upon the filing of its final report, whichever occurs first.

Effective this the 27th day of October, 2009.



Joe Hackney
Speaker