

**HOUSE BILL NO. 201**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE GUTTENBERG**

**Introduced: 3/21/11**

**Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska Broadband Task Force."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 \* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
4 to read:

5 **LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.** (a) The legislature finds that

6 (1) many communities in the state have limited access to the Internet;

7 (2) although the state is connected to the rest of the world through several  
8 fiber optic cables, many areas in the state are unable to take advantage of the speed and  
9 capacity the fiber optic cables offer;

10 (3) removing barriers to broadband deployment by using a technology-neutral  
11 approach will encourage lower prices for broadband service and offer more choices to  
12 consumers;

13 (4) the deployment of broadband networking and advanced  
14 telecommunications services throughout the state is essential for the state to keep pace with  
15 global changes in economic diversification, education, health care, energy and environmental

1 technology, and public safety;

2 (5) state action is necessary to support investment in and development of  
3 accessible broadband networks in the state.

4 (b) The purpose of sec. 2 of this Act is to establish the Alaska Broadband Task Force  
5 to

6 (1) identify barriers to broadband access and recommend options for removing  
7 those barriers;

8 (2) identify opportunities for increased broadband deployment and access by  
9 users in the state;

10 (3) recommend the means for the creation and deployment of new and  
11 advanced communications options in the state.

12 \* **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
13 read:

14 **ALASKA BROADBAND TASK FORCE.** (a) The Alaska Broadband Task Force is  
15 established in the legislative branch of state government. The task force consists of 13  
16 members appointed as follows:

17 (1) the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives  
18 shall each appoint one member of the majority organizational caucus and one member of the  
19 minority organizational caucus from their respective bodies; if there is no minority  
20 organizational caucus in a house, the presiding officer of that house shall appoint two  
21 members from the majority organizational caucus of that house;

22 (2) four members shall be representatives of state, municipal, or other local  
23 government agencies responsible for information technology, economic development,  
24 infrastructure development, and public utility regulation with two members appointed by the  
25 president of the senate and two members appointed by the speaker of the house of  
26 representatives;

27 (3) five members shall be representatives of technology, telecommunications,  
28 and investment businesses doing business in the state and appointed jointly by the president of  
29 the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives.

30 (b) The task force established under (a) of this section

31 (1) may begin work immediately after a majority of the membership is

1 appointed;

2 (2) shall

3 (A) determine the current level of broadband access in the urban and  
4 rural areas of the state;

5 (B) determine an acceptable level of broadband service throughout the  
6 state;

7 (C) determine the means for increasing the level of service, including  
8 regulatory changes and investment incentives for areas that are below the acceptable  
9 level determined in (B) of this paragraph;

10 (D) explore the potential for increased use of broadband service for the  
11 purposes of education and health care delivery and other private and governmental  
12 uses;

13 (E) solicit suggestions from persons engaged in the development of  
14 broadband infrastructure and operation of broadband services for expanding the  
15 availability of broadband service in the state;

16 (F) study all means for delivering broadband service;

17 (G) establish best practices to establish and maintain a database that  
18 lists current broadband service providers and where each operates, projects that are  
19 currently being developed, and projects that are in the planning and predevelopment  
20 stage;

21 (H) explore ways for encouraging state and municipal agencies to  
22 expand the development and use of broadband services, including audio and video  
23 streaming, voice-over Internet protocol, teleconferencing, and wireless networking;

24 (I) submit a report of the initial findings and recommendations for  
25 expanding access to broadband services throughout the state to the president of the  
26 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives before December 31, 2011;

27 (J) submit a final report of findings and recommendations for  
28 expanding access to broadband services throughout the state to the president of the  
29 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives before February 1, 2012;

30 (K) terminate on March 1, 2012.

31 (c) Members of the task force shall select a chair and vice-chair. Administrative

1 support for the task force shall be provided by legislative staff designated jointly by the  
2 president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives.

3 (d) A member of the task force who is not a legislator or a full-time employee of the  
4 state or a municipality is entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and  
5 commissions under AS 39.20.180.

6 (e) A vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
7 appointment under (a)(1) - (3) of this section.