

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 131

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
2 TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE AND COMPLETE A STUDY OF BROADBAND
3 ACCESS FOR THE STATE AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.
4

5 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

6 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho agrees with the overarch-
7 ing vision of consistent private broadband services being available for use
8 by the school districts in the State of Idaho; and

9 WHEREAS, coordination of a statewide network will help drive investment
10 in fiber optic and other high-bandwidth transmission media in some communi-
11 ties; and

12 WHEREAS, a statewide network or set of standards for broadband func-
13 tionality and interconnectivity enables the sharing of courses among school
14 districts and equal access by students to concurrent enrollment offered by
15 higher education; and

16 WHEREAS, the Legislature is concerned about the current inability to
17 access E-Rate funds now paid by Idaho citizens to the Universal Service Fund
18 and desires that school districts have the ability to access those funds; and

19 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes it is requisite to first determine
20 the proper network architecture and oversight before attempting to access
21 these E-Rate funds; and

22 WHEREAS, Idaho's local school districts appear to have been able to con-
23 tract for public Internet access at drastically reduced costs in the short-
24 term; and

25 WHEREAS, intent language in the current fiscal year appropriation for
26 the Department of Administration requires an analysis and justification of
27 the cost, benefits, and flexibility of a statewide contract, as compared to
28 individual contracts issued by state agencies, for the purchase of broadband
29 and related services for state agencies that may be applicable to education
30 broadband services as well; and

31 WHEREAS, a thorough and complete study of our state broadband service
32 should include a comprehensive review of best practices in the field.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
34 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-
35 resentatives concurring therein, that the Legislative Council is authorized
36 to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of and make recom-
37 mendations for broadband services and governance for the State of Idaho. The
38 committee shall make recommendations regarding minimum Service Level Agree-
39 ments (SLAs). The committee will consider opportunities for local districts
40 to contract outside any statewide network with a service provider that can
41 meet those SLAs with additional costs beyond those of participating in the
42 statewide network, if any, to be borne by the local district. The Legisla-
43 tive Council shall determine the number of legislators and membership from

1 each house appointed to the committee and shall authorize the committee to
2 receive input, advice and assistance from interested and affected parties
3 who are not members of the Legislature. The committee will determine whether
4 there is a need for a professional facilitator to assist in the facilitation
5 of discussions and/or the preparation of a request for proposals. If the
6 committee determines a facilitator is needed, they will work with the Gover-
7 nor's office to determine who will bear the cost of the facilitator.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nonlegislative members of the committee may
9 be appointed by the co-chairs of the committee who are appointed by the Leg-
10 islative Council. Nonlegislative members of the advisory committee shall
11 not be reimbursed from legislative funds for per diem, mileage or other ex-
12 penses and shall not have voting privileges regarding the committee's recom-
13 mendations or proposed legislation.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall report its findings,
15 recommendations and proposed legislation, if any, to the Second Regular
16 Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature.