

House Resolution No. 949

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE POGUE.

2531L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

2 **WHEREAS**, on February 26, 2015, the Federal Communications Commission voted to
3 implement new net neutrality rules which will become effective sixty days after publication in
4 the Federal Register; and

5 **WHEREAS**, net neutrality, also called Open Internet, is based on a principle that Internet
6 networks should be equally available to all types of legal content generators; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, while FCC-approved net neutrality rules have been in place since 2008, the
9 FCC was forced to propose new net neutrality rules when the United States Court of Appeals for
10 the District of Columbia in early 2014 vacated the earlier rules; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, the new rule reclassifies ISPs, including wireless data providers, as public
13 utilities, like phone companies, that are subject to a set of regulations regarding fair access to
14 services; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, the new net neutrality rules will allow big ISPs to charge online companies
17 for faster delivery of their content, which essentially will create a two-tiered system that allows
18 ISPs to offer premium access to content providers who could afford to pay for it; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, the new rules will create a "segregated" Internet where smaller and newer
21 companies are unable to compete with established firms and their deep pockets; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, ISPs could end up having to pay more fees under the new rules and will
24 likely pass those additional charges on to consumers; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, imposing these new rules by reclassifying broadband under the same rules
27 the FCC uses for the telephone network gives the FCC authority to set prices on services and
28 collect fees; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, while the FCC officials have stated that they won't raise fees for ISPs, there
31 are no protections in the new rules which would prevent such a change in the future:

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33 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri House
34 of Representatives, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, hereby strongly opposes the new FCC net
35 neutrality rules which could result in higher costs which could inhibit ISPs from introducing new

36 services and limit innovations in improving their networks, and will likely be passed on to
37 consumers; and

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39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
40 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for FCC
41 Chairman Tom Wheeler and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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