

~~(4) coordinate State government telecommunication systems and services by reviewing requests by units of State government for telecommunication equipment, systems, or services;~~

~~(5) advise units of State government about planning, acquisition, and operation of telecommunication equipment, systems, or services; and~~

~~(6) provide radio frequency coordination for State and local governments in accordance with regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.~~

~~(b) The Department [may] SHALL make arrangement for [a user] ALL USERS other than a unit of State government to have access to and use of State telecommunication equipment, systems, and [services and shall charge the user any appropriate amount to cover the cost of installation, maintenance, and operation of the telecommunication equipment, system, or service provided] SERVICES:~~

~~(1) OFFERING TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR UNITS A PLATFORM OF BACKBONE SERVICES ON A STANDARD SCHEDULE OF FLAT RATES, AND MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL INTENSIVE HIGH BANDWIDTH SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THOSE GOVERNMENTS AND UNITS AT ADDITIONAL COST, AND~~

~~(2) OFFERING BROADBAND SERVICES, INCLUDING SUPPLEMENTAL INTENSIVE HIGH BANDWIDTH SERVICES, AVAILABLE TO OTHER USERS ACCORDING TO AN APPROPRIATE SCHEDULE OF CHARGES OR USING ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE METHOD TO RECOVER THE COSTS OF PROVIDING SERVICES TO THESE USERS.~~

~~3-705.~~

(a) The General Assembly declares that:

~~(1) it is the policy of the State to foster BROADBAND telecommunication and computer networking [among State and local governments, their agencies, and educational institutions in] THROUGHOUT the State;~~

~~(2) the current alignment of [interagency and educational] telecommunication and computer networking in the State, based in part on the arrangement of Local Access and Transport Areas (LATAs), does not serve all areas of the State equally, but instead creates a disparity between rural and urban regions;~~

~~(3) rates for the intrastate inter LATA telephone communications needed for effective integration of telecommunication and computer resources are prohibitive for many smaller governments, agencies, and [institutions] OTHER PERSONS;~~

~~(4) there is a need to improve access, especially in rural areas, to efficient telecommunication and computer network connections;~~

~~(5) IMPROVED ACCESS TO HIGH SPEED TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER NETWORKING CONNECTIONS IN DESIGNATED GROWTH AREAS, PARTICULARLY IN UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED PARTS OF THE STATE, WILL FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN APPROPRIATE AREAS, FURTHERING THE GOAL OF EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE BY:~~