**Model State Code**

1. Short Title.

The Title of this Act shall be the State Broadband Deployment Act.

1. Purpose.
   1. It is hereby declared to be the public policy of this state to encourage the development and deployment of broadband infrastructure to better serve the public and further economic development in this state. The state recognizes that broadband infrastructure is a necessary foundation for an innovative economy. To achieve the vision of ubiquitous broadband throughout the state, broadband must be
      1. Available. Broadband should be available to accomplish necessary goals from a technology-neutral perspective;
      2. Affordable. For broadband to be available, it must be both affordable for the consumer to purchase and the provider to offer. The state understands that what is affordable may differ for different areas of the state; and
      3. Ample. Broadband is considered ample if it provides enough bandwidth to meet personal, business, educational, agricultural, and economic development needs and is capable of expansion to meet future needs.
   2. Additionally, the state finds that Broadband is
      1. Key and vital infrastructure to the State; and
      2. Essential to
         1. The fundamental activities of an advanced society including education, economic development, health, agriculture, the pursuit of science and technology, and the conduct of government at all levels; and
         2. Obtaining economic and educational equality among the different counties and regions of the state;
      3. As a key and vital infrastructure:
         1. The first phase of the statewide broadband effort must be to make broadband accessible to every individual and organization in the state; and
         2. The second phase of the statewide broadband effort must be to establish the state as a leader in the leveraging of broadband in support of the activities essential to an advanced society.
      4. The inclusion of broadband in state and county economic development plans should be encouraged.
   3. State activities in support of county economic development plans shall give priority to county economic development plans that include regional broadband collaborations to assist in situations in which counties cannot independently establish broadband.
   4. To achieve the aforestated objectives, it shall be the policy of this State to:
      1. Promote efforts to attain the highest quality of broadband capabilities in the state and to make high speed communication available to all residents and businesses in the state;
      2. Encourage the continued development and expansion of the broadband infrastructure to accommodate future growth and innovation in the state's economy;
      3. Facilitate the development of new or innovative business and service ventures in the information industry which will provide employment opportunities for the people of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;
      4. Encourage greater cooperation between the public and private sectors in developing, deploying, and maintaining a robust state-wide broadband infrastructure;
      5. Eliminate as much as possible any digital divide between urban and rural areas of the state and make access to broadband internet available to all residents and businesses regardless of location, as well as the elimination of, to greatest extent possible, any digital divide across an urban area; and

Recognize that communication and infrastructure of the various agencies of state government are valuable strategic assets belonging to the people of the state and should be managed accordingly.