

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 92

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman HAROLD "HAL" J. WIRTHS**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Simonsen, Assemblywomen Quijano, Pinkin, Murphy, Jasey, Assemblymen Freiman, Space, Assemblywoman Lopez, Assemblyman Verrelli and Assemblywoman McKnight**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges Congress to pass "Community Broadband Act."

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/29/2020)**

AR92 DEANGELO, WIRTHS

2

- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** respectfully urging Congress to pass  
2 the “Community Broadband Act.”  
3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, Access to broadband Internet service is increasingly  
5 recognized as an integral part of American life; and
- 6 **WHEREAS**, Communities that lack broadband Internet access face  
7 disadvantages in many areas, including economic growth,  
8 education, health care, public safety, and energy; and
- 9 **WHEREAS**, Approximately 30 percent of Americans do not have  
10 access to broadband Internet in their homes because they are  
11 underserved by private broadband Internet providers; and
- 12 **WHEREAS**, Communities across the country have remedied the lack of  
13 broadband Internet service to their residents by establishing  
14 community broadband Internet networks, which are administered  
15 by counties or municipalities and deliver fast, affordable, and  
16 reliable high-speed Internet service; and
- 17 **WHEREAS**, Community broadband networks increase competition in  
18 markets where there are often few Internet service providers, offer  
19 more choices to residents, and increase opportunities for economic  
20 growth; and
- 21 **WHEREAS**, In 2010, recognizing the importance of broadband Internet  
22 access, the Federal Communications Commission implemented the  
23 National Broadband Plan, which is designed to increase  
24 competition among broadband Internet service providers, increase  
25 broadband Internet deployment to low-income and rural areas, and  
26 reform law and policy to maximize the benefits of broadband  
27 Internet; and
- 28 **WHEREAS**, Community broadband Internet networks help to further  
29 the mandate of the National Broadband Plan to provide broadband  
30 Internet access to all residents of the country; and
- 31 **WHEREAS**, Often as a result of the lobbying efforts of private  
32 broadband Internet service providers, certain states have enacted  
33 legislation to prohibit or put restrictions on communities from  
34 establishing community broadband Internet networks; and
- 35 **WHEREAS**, States should not preclude communities from exploring all  
36 options available for the provision of broadband Internet service to  
37 residents and businesses; and
- 38 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has not enacted legislation prohibiting  
39 community broadband Internet networks; and
- 40 **WHEREAS**, It is all together fitting and proper for this House, and in  
41 the public interest, to respectfully urge Congress to pass the  
42 “Community Broadband Act of 2019” to end restrictions on the  
43 establishment of community broadband Internet networks; now,  
44 therefore,
- 45
- 46 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
47 Jersey:

1           1. The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey  
 2 respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to pass House  
 3 Bill No. 2785 of 2019-2020, known as the “Community Broadband  
 4 Act of 2019.”

5  
 6           2. Copies of this resolution, as filed by the Secretary of State,  
 7 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the  
 8 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the  
 9 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of  
 10 Representatives, and each member of Congress elected from this  
 11 State.

12  
 13  
 14                                       **STATEMENT**

15  
 16           This resolution respectfully urges Congress to pass House Bill  
 17 No. 2785 of 2019-2020, known as the “Community Broadband Act  
 18 of 2019.” Access to the Internet is becoming recognized as an  
 19 integral part of American life but some communities are  
 20 underserved by private broadband Internet service providers.  
 21 Communities that lack broadband Internet access face  
 22 disadvantages in many areas, including economic growth,  
 23 education, health care, public safety, and energy. To address this  
 24 deficiency, some communities have established community  
 25 broadband Internet networks, which are administered by counties or  
 26 municipalities and deliver fast, affordable, and reliable broadband  
 27 Internet service. Community broadband Internet networks increase  
 28 competition in markets where there are often few broadband  
 29 Internet service providers, offer more choices to residents, and spur  
 30 economic growth.

31           Often as a result of the lobbying efforts of private broadband  
 32 Internet service providers, certain states have enacted legislation to  
 33 prohibit or put restrictions on communities from establishing  
 34 community broadband Internet networks. This resolution supports  
 35 Congress in ensuring that states should not preclude communities  
 36 from exploring all options available for the provision of broadband  
 37 Internet service to residents and businesses.