

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 98

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Pou

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to pass “Community Broadband Act.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/16/2020)

1 **AN SENATE RESOLUTION** respectfully urging Congress to pass the
2 “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,
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46 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

SR98 SINGLETON, OROHO

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

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed by the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Congress elected from this State.

STATEMENT

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

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