



General Assembly

Amendment

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LCO No. 4021



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

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SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 3

File No. 182

Cal. No. 133

"AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
4 "broadband Internet access service", "broadband Internet access service
5 provider" and "digital equity" have the same meanings as provided in
6 section 16-330a of the general statutes.

7 (b) The Consumer Counsel shall study the merits, feasibility and
8 available means of:

9 (1) Ensuring digital equity for all residents of the state;

10 (2) Ensuring that all residents of the state have access to broadband
11 Internet access service that:

12 (A) Is sufficient and reliable, with Internet speeds that are sufficient
13 to meet the growing demand and reliance on broadband Internet access
14 service for access to economic prosperity, education, government,
15 health care and public safety;

16 (B) Is ubiquitous by ensuring that sufficient and reliable access to
17 broadband Internet access service is available throughout the state and
18 on tribal land, including, but not limited to, (i) the most rural areas of
19 the state, (ii) the most populated urban areas of the state, and (iii) low-
20 income neighborhoods in the state;

21 (C) Is affordable, regardless of their geographic location or household
22 income;

23 (D) Provides educational opportunities and supports digital skills
24 proficiency by ensuring that they have access to opportunities to thrive
25 in a digital world;

26 (E) Secures public safety and maintains the peace of mind that comes
27 from knowing that they have reliable access to emergency response
28 services and emergency alert systems in the event of emergencies or
29 catastrophic disasters;

30 (F) Improves their quality of life by advancing their economic status
31 through access to educational opportunities, health care and new job
32 opportunities;

33 (G) Supports economic prosperity by ensuring that all entrepreneurs
34 and workers, and all businesses, employers, enterprises and start-ups
35 regardless of size and including, but not limited to, agricultural
36 businesses, employers, enterprises, entrepreneurs and start-ups, in the
37 state have access to broadband Internet access service that optimizes the
38 value of their contributions to the economy for the purpose of ensuring
39 global competitiveness;

40 (H) Attracts capital investment to the state because ubiquitous
41 broadband Internet access service is essential to ensure that the state

42 continues to attract the state's fair share of global capital investment to
43 support and enhance the state's economic prosperity;

44 (I) Supports innovation and research in the state by ensuring that
45 broadband Internet infrastructure connects all research institutions in
46 the state to sustain world-class research and innovation that drives
47 economic productivity in the state; and

48 (J) Empowers and enables participation in the democratic process so
49 that all residents of the state are connected to the Internet with sufficient
50 speed to participate in government, online educational opportunities
51 and telehealth for their quality of life and public safety;

52 (3) Requiring that minimum speeds for broadband Internet access
53 service be performance based to support online educational
54 opportunities, telehealth and remote working by a majority of
55 households online, simultaneously and with an increasing need for
56 symmetrical network speeds;

57 (4) Requiring that public broadband investments be prioritized to
58 connect entire communities and address digital redlining in historically
59 unserved and underserved communities; and

60 (5) To the extent technically feasible, requiring that all broadband
61 Internet access service subscribers within a broadband Internet access
62 service provider's service territory be able to subscribe to broadband
63 Internet access service (A) that provides comparable capacities, latency,
64 speeds and other quality-of-service metrics, and (B) on comparable
65 terms and conditions.

66 (c) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Consumer Counsel shall submit
67 a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the
68 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
69 of matters relating to consumer protection and technology. Such report
70 shall include the results of the study conducted pursuant to subsection
71 (b) of this section.

72 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

73 (1) "Affordable broadband Internet access service" means broadband
74 Internet access service that (A) costs not more than the amount
75 established in subsection (c) of this section, and (B) meets the minimum
76 speed requirements set forth in subsection (d) of this section;

77 (2) "Broadband Internet access service" has the same meaning as
78 provided in section 6 of this act;

79 (3) "Broadband Internet access service provider" has the same
80 meaning as provided in section 6 of this act;

81 (4) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer
82 Protection;

83 (5) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;

84 (6) "Eligible household" means (A) a resident of a group home or
85 congregate care facility that (i) is participating in a qualified public
86 assistance program, and (ii) is located within a qualified broadband
87 Internet access service provider's service territory in this state, and (B) a
88 household (i) in which at least one resident is participating in a qualified
89 public assistance program, and (ii) that is located within a qualified
90 broadband Internet access service provider's service territory in this
91 state;

92 (7) "Qualified broadband Internet access service provider" means a
93 broadband Internet access service provider that is doing business in this
94 state and with any state agency, including, but not limited to, through a
95 procurement contract;

96 (8) "Qualified public assistance program" means (A) the Connecticut
97 energy assistance program administered by the Department of Social
98 Services pursuant to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of
99 1981, as amended from time to time, (B) the National School Lunch
100 Program, (C) the temporary assistance for needy families program
101 administered by the Department of Social Services pursuant to the

102 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
103 1996, as amended from time to time, (D) the supplemental nutrition
104 assistance program administered by the Department of Social Services
105 pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended from time
106 to time, (E) the Covered Connecticut program established under section
107 19a-754c of the general statutes, (F) HUSKY Health, as defined in section
108 17b-290 of the general statutes, (G) the state supplement program to the
109 federal Supplemental Security Income Program administered by the
110 Department of Social Services pursuant to the Social Security Act, as
111 amended from time to time, and (H) any program providing need-based
112 financial aid for post-secondary education; and

113 (9) "State agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-79
114 of the general statutes.

115 (b) The Department of Consumer Protection shall develop, establish
116 and administer a program that shall be known as the "Net Equality
117 Program" for the purposes set forth in this section. As part of said
118 program:

119 (1) The department shall monitor progress toward achieving the
120 objectives set forth in subparagraph (C)(i) of subdivision (2) of this
121 subsection; and

122 (2) Each qualified broadband Internet access service provider shall:

123 (A) Beginning on October 1, 2024, allow any resident or household
124 described in subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of this section, during any
125 month in which such resident or household qualifies as an eligible
126 household, to immediately convert to affordable broadband Internet
127 access service provided by such qualified broadband Internet access
128 service provider;

129 (B) Not later than October 1, 2024, establish and maintain a telephone
130 number at which members of eligible households may contact trained
131 personnel to sign up for affordable broadband Internet access service
132 during the thirty-minute period immediately following the beginning

133 of a telephone call made to such telephone number;

134 (C) Not later than December 31, 2024, and annually thereafter, hold a
135 public meeting with key stakeholders to (i) ensure that (I) at least ninety
136 per cent of eligible households receive affordable broadband Internet
137 access service not later than January 1, 2025, and (II) at least ninety-five
138 per cent of eligible households receive affordable broadband Internet
139 access service not later than January 1, 2028, and (ii) explore options to
140 establish and advance strategic and effective public-private
141 partnerships;

142 (D) Not later than April 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, submit to
143 the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner,
144 a report disclosing (i) the number of eligible households that signed up
145 for affordable broadband Internet access service provided by such
146 qualified broadband Internet access service provider during the year
147 that is the subject of the report, and (ii) the total number of eligible
148 households that received affordable broadband Internet access service
149 provided by such qualified broadband Internet access service provider
150 during the year that is the subject of such report; and

151 (E) (i) Beginning on October 1, 2024, advertise, in print and online, in
152 multiple languages and by placing advertisements with public and
153 nongovernmental organizations, the availability of (I) the affordable
154 broadband Internet access service provided by such qualified
155 broadband Internet access service provider in this state, and (II) the
156 "Affordable Connectivity Program" developed and implemented by the
157 Federal Communications Commission or an equivalent program
158 offered by said commission.

159 (ii) Each advertisement required under subparagraph (E)(i) of this
160 subdivision shall include the telephone number established and
161 maintained pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision.

162 (iii) Notwithstanding subparagraph (E)(i) of this subdivision, a
163 qualified broadband Internet access service provider may cease all
164 advertisements required under said subparagraph if a reputable state-

165 wide survey demonstrates that (I) at least eighty per cent of eligible
166 households are aware that affordable broadband Internet access service
167 is available, or (II) at least ninety-five per cent of eligible households are
168 connected to the Internet at home.

169 (c) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the
170 monthly cost charged by a qualified broadband Internet access service
171 provider to an eligible household for affordable broadband Internet
172 access service provided pursuant to this section shall not exceed forty
173 dollars.

174 (2) Not later than June 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the
175 Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adjust the maximum
176 monthly cost which a qualified broadband Internet access service
177 provider may charge to an eligible household for affordable broadband
178 Internet access service provided pursuant to this section during the
179 twelve-month period beginning on July first of the same calendar year
180 in accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all urban
181 consumers for the preceding calendar year, as published by the United
182 States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

183 (d) (1) Except as provided in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this
184 subsection, all affordable broadband Internet access service provided
185 pursuant to this section shall provide:

186 (A) Speeds that are at least as fast as (i) twenty-five megabits per
187 second downstream, and (ii) three megabits per second upstream; and

188 (B) Speeds and latencies that are sufficient to support distance
189 learning and telehealth services.

190 (2) Beginning on June 1, 2026, and not more frequently than
191 biennially thereafter, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection may, in
192 consultation with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, increase the
193 minimum speeds set forth in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this
194 subsection for the two-year period beginning on July first of the same
195 calendar year. The Commissioner of Consumer Protection and the

196 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall post such increased speeds
197 on the Department of Consumer Protection's and Public Utilities
198 Regulatory Authority's Internet web sites.

199 (3) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may authorize a
200 deviation from the requirements established in this subsection for the
201 purpose of complying with applicable state or federal law, except the
202 commissioner shall not authorize any deviation from such requirements
203 to allow any affordable broadband Internet access service provided
204 pursuant to this section to provide speeds that are slower than the
205 speeds set forth in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection
206 or established by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, in
207 consultation with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, pursuant to
208 subdivision (2) of this subsection, whichever speeds are higher.

209 (e) (1) Beginning on October 1, 2024, and except as provided in
210 subdivision (2) of this subsection, no state agency shall do business, or
211 enter into any procurement contract, with any broadband Internet
212 access service provider that is doing business in this state unless such
213 broadband Internet access service provider offers affordable broadband
214 Internet access service to eligible households as required under this
215 section.

216 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not be
217 construed to impair any contract that is in existence on October 1, 2024.

218 (f) The provisions of subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of this section
219 shall not be construed to apply to the Department of Emergency
220 Services and Public Protection.

221 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this
222 section:

223 (1) "Business" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-158ff
224 of the general statutes; and

225 (2) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-79 of the

226 general statutes.

227 (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no
228 business that offers to sell, lease or otherwise provide any good or
229 service to any person who is physically present in this state shall:

230 (A) Advertise, display or otherwise offer such good or service to such
231 person at a price that excludes any fee, charge or cost that such person
232 is required to pay in order to purchase, lease or otherwise receive such
233 good or service; or

234 (B) Require such person to pay any fee, charge or cost to purchase,
235 lease or otherwise receive such good or service if such fee, charge or cost
236 (i) is not displayed to such person before such person selects such good
237 or service for purchase, leasing or receipt, or (ii) is intentionally
238 obscured, unclear or misrepresented by such business for the purpose
239 of misleading such person.

240 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not be
241 construed to:

242 (A) Prohibit a business from omitting any applicable federal, state or
243 local tax, or any mandatory fee imposed by any government,
244 governmental subdivision, agency or instrumentality or quasi-
245 governmental instrumentality, from any advertised or displayed price
246 for a good or service if such tax or fee is disclosed to the person before
247 such person purchases, leases or otherwise receives the good or service;

248 (B) Prohibit a business from imposing any mandatory gratuity, or
249 omitting any mandatory gratuity from any advertised or displayed
250 price for a good or service, if the existence of such mandatory gratuity
251 and the manner in which such mandatory gratuity is calculated are
252 disclosed to the person before the person selects the good or service for
253 purchase, leasing or receipt;

254 (C) Prohibit a business from imposing any fee, charge or cost for a
255 good or service, or omitting the amount of any fee, charge or cost from

256 any advertised or displayed price for a good or service, if (i) the amount
257 of such fee, charge or cost is (I) dependent on the person's selections or
258 cannot feasibly be calculated in full when the price for such good or
259 service is first advertised or displayed, including, but not limited to, any
260 fee, charge or cost imposed for shipping or delivery or that varies
261 according to the quantity or number of goods purchased, leased or
262 otherwise received, or (II) charged to the person for the purpose of
263 confirming such person's identity or payment information, in an
264 amount that does not exceed one dollar and immediately refunded to
265 the person, (ii) the existence of such fee, charge or cost is disclosed when
266 the good or service is advertised or displayed to the person, and (iii) the
267 amount of such fee, charge or cost is disclosed to the person before such
268 person purchases, leases or otherwise receives such good or service;

269 (D) Apply to any transaction that is subject to the provisions of
270 chapter 704 of the general statutes; or

271 (E) Apply to any transaction, action or act that qualifies for an
272 exception set forth in section 42-110c of the general statutes.

273 (c) Any violation of subsection (b) of this section shall be deemed an
274 unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b
275 of the general statutes.

276 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

277 (1) "Covered foreign entity" means (A) any person who is included in
278 (i) the Consolidated Screening List maintained by the United States
279 Department of Commerce, United States Department of State and
280 United States Department of Treasury, or (ii) the Entity List,
281 Supplement 4 to 15 CFR Part 744, as amended from time to time, (B) the
282 People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation and any
283 governmental subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof, (C) any
284 person domiciled in the People's Republic of China or the Russian
285 Federation, (D) any person under the control or influence of the People's
286 Republic of China or the Russian Federation, and (E) any affiliate or
287 subsidiary of any foreign government or person described in

- 288 subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision;
- 289 (2) "Department head" has the same meaning as provided in section
290 4-5 of the general statutes;
- 291 (3) "Exigent circumstances" means significantly changed
292 circumstances that were unforeseeable and pose an imminent threat to
293 public health or safety;
- 294 (4) "Municipality" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-148
295 of the general statutes;
- 296 (5) "Person" means any individual, association, corporation, limited
297 liability company, partnership, trust, government, governmental
298 subdivision, agency, instrumentality or other legal entity;
- 299 (6) "Small unmanned aircraft system" (A) means any unmanned
300 powered aircraft that (i) is operated without the possibility of direct
301 human intervention from within or on the aircraft, and (ii) weighs less
302 than fifty-five pounds including anything attached to or carried by the
303 aircraft, and (B) includes (i) all elements that (I) are associated with the
304 aircraft described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, and (II) are
305 required for the operator to operate the aircraft described in
306 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision safely and efficiently in the
307 national airspace system, and (ii) any communication links and
308 components that control the aircraft described in subparagraph (A) of
309 this subdivision; and
- 310 (7) "State agency" means any agency with a department head.
- 311 (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this
312 subsection and subsection (d) of this section:
- 313 (A) Beginning on October 1, 2024, the Department of Emergency
314 Services and Public Protection shall not purchase any small unmanned
315 aircraft system assembled or manufactured by a covered foreign entity;
316 and

317 (B) Beginning on October 1, 2026, the Department of Emergency
318 Services and Public Protection shall not operate any small unmanned
319 aircraft system assembled or manufactured by a covered foreign entity.

320 (2) The provisions of subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this
321 subsection shall not be construed to impair any contract entered into
322 before October 1, 2024.

323 (3) The provisions of subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this
324 subsection shall not be construed to impair any contract entered into
325 before October 1, 2026.

326 (c) (1) Except as provided in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection
327 and subsection (d) of this section:

328 (A) Beginning on October 1, 2025, (i) no state agency or municipality,
329 or person who enters into a contract with any state agency or
330 municipality, shall purchase any small unmanned aircraft system
331 assembled or manufactured by a covered foreign entity, and (ii) no state
332 funds, including, but not limited to, any state funds awarded or paid
333 pursuant to a contract, cooperative agreement or grant, shall be used to
334 purchase any small unmanned aircraft system assembled or
335 manufactured by a covered foreign entity; and

336 (B) Beginning on October 1, 2027, (i) no state agency or municipality,
337 or person who enters into a contract with any state agency or
338 municipality, shall operate any small unmanned aircraft system
339 assembled or manufactured by a covered foreign entity, and (ii) no state
340 funds, including, but not limited to, any state funds awarded or paid
341 pursuant to a contract, cooperative agreement or grant, shall be used to
342 operate any small unmanned aircraft system assembled or
343 manufactured by a covered foreign entity.

344 (2) The provisions of subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this
345 subsection shall not be construed to impair any contract entered into
346 before October 1, 2025.

347 (3) The provisions of subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this
348 subsection shall not be construed to impair any contract entered into
349 before October 1, 2027.

350 (d) (1) During the period beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
351 December 31, 2034:

352 (A) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
353 may waive the prohibitions established in subdivision (1) of subsection
354 (b) of this section if the commissioner (i) determines that such waiver is
355 necessary (I) due to exigent circumstances, (II) to counter another small
356 unmanned aircraft system, or (III) for the purposes of any criminal
357 investigation, and (ii) submits to the Office of Policy and Management,
358 in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy
359 and Management, a certification of the need for such waiver and the
360 basis for such waiver; and

361 (B) The department head of the state agency, the chief law
362 enforcement officer of the municipality or the chief of the paid
363 municipal or volunteer fire department may waive the prohibitions
364 established in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section if the
365 department head or chief (i) determines that such waiver is necessary (I)
366 due to exigent circumstances, (II) to counter another small unmanned
367 aircraft system, or (III) for the purposes of any criminal investigation,
368 and (ii) submits to the Office of Policy and Management, in a form and
369 manner prescribed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
370 Management, a certification of the need for such waiver and the basis
371 for such waiver.

372 (2) The Office of Policy and Management shall maintain each
373 certification submitted to said office pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
374 subsection. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall
375 disclose a copy of any such certification to any member of the General
376 Assembly if such member files a written request for such copy with said
377 secretary.

378 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) For the purposes of this

379 section:

380 (1) "Connected device" means an Internet-connected device,
381 including, but not limited to, a cellular telephone, computer, home
382 appliance, motor vehicle, tablet, television, toy or video game console,
383 that includes a camera or microphone;

384 (2) "Connected device manufacturer" means a person doing business
385 in this state who manufactures a connected device;

386 (3) "Initial consumer" means an individual who is (A) a resident of
387 this state, and (B) with respect to any connected device, the first
388 individual to lease, purchase or assume ownership of such connected
389 device;

390 (4) "Person" means an individual, association, corporation, limited
391 liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity;

392 (5) "Personally identifying information" has the same meaning as
393 provided in section 42-284 of the general statutes;

394 (6) "Provider" means (A) a connected device manufacturer, and (B)
395 any person who (i) enters into a contract with a connected device
396 manufacturer, and (ii) receives access to (I) any camera or microphone
397 included in a connected device manufactured by the connected device
398 manufacturer, (II) any image or video collected, recorded, stored,
399 analyzed, interpreted or transmitted by way of any camera included in
400 any connected device manufactured by the connected device
401 manufacturer, or (III) any spoken word or other sound collected,
402 recorded, stored, analyzed, interpreted or transmitted by way of any
403 microphone included in any connected device manufactured by the
404 connected device manufacturer; and

405 (7) "Toy" means a product that a manufacturer designs, or intends to
406 be used, for amusement or play.

407 (b) No provider shall allow any person to activate any connected
408 device unless the provider:

409 (1) Prominently displays to the initial consumer or any person whom
410 the initial consumer designates to first install or set up the connected
411 device, at the time that such initial consumer or person first installs or
412 sets up such connected device:

413 (A) A disclaimer in the following form:

414 "This device transmits audio and/or video back to the manufacturer
415 and/or a third party and may be recorded."; and

416 (B) A statement disclosing (i) that such connected device includes a
417 camera or microphone, (ii) that the camera or microphone included in
418 such connected device will be enabled or turned on, (iii) that such
419 connected device might record such initial consumer, (iv) that the
420 connected device manufacturer of such connected device or another
421 provider might retain recordings of such initial consumer, (v) which
422 command or action will activate or enable operation of the camera or
423 microphone included in such connected device, (vi) the categories of
424 images, videos or sounds that (I) the camera or microphone included in
425 such connected device will look for, listen for or record, or (II) might be
426 disclosed to any person other than such initial consumer, (vii) the
427 categories of persons described in subparagraph (B)(vi)(II) of this
428 subdivision, and (viii) that such initial consumer shall not be
429 discriminated against if such initial consumer or person declines to
430 activate a camera or microphone included in the connected device
431 unless (I) such connected device is provided to such initial consumer as
432 a condition of employment, or (II) declining to activate such camera or
433 microphone would render such connected device useless; and

434 (2) Provides to the initial consumer or any person whom the initial
435 consumer designates to first install or set up the connected device, at the
436 time that such initial consumer or person first installs or sets up such
437 connected device, the ability to decline to activate a camera or
438 microphone included in the connected device.

439 (c) Each provider shall implement and maintain reasonable security
440 measures to protect any personally identifying information collected

441 through a camera or microphone included in a connected device from
442 any unauthorized access, acquisition, destruction, disclosure,
443 modification or use thereof.

444 (d) No provider shall use or sell any recording collected through
445 operation of a camera or microphone included in a connected device for
446 the purposes of targeted advertising, as defined in section 42-515 of the
447 general statutes.

448 (e) No person shall compel any provider to build specific features for
449 the purpose of allowing a law enforcement agency or officer to monitor
450 communications through a camera or microphone included in a
451 connected device.

452 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

453 (1) Impose any liability on a provider for any functionality provided
454 by an application that an initial consumer (A) downloads and installs,
455 or (B) chooses to use on a network of remote servers hosted on the
456 Internet to store, manage and process data;

457 (2) Authorize disclosure of any recording retained by a provider to
458 another person, including, but not limited to, a law enforcement agency
459 or officer, unless such disclosure is authorized by other applicable law
460 or pursuant to an order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction; or

461 (3) Modify, limit or supersede the operation of any other provision of
462 the general statutes concerning privacy or security.

463 (g) Any violation of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section
464 shall be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection
465 (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes.

466 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section,
467 unless the context otherwise requires:

468 (1) "Authority" means the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority;

469 (2) "Broadband Internet access service" (A) means a mass-market
470 retail service that, by wire or radio, provides the capability to transmit
471 data to, and receive data from, all or substantially all Internet endpoints,
472 including, but not limited to, any capability that is incidental to, and
473 enables the operation of, such service, (B) includes any service that is (i)
474 provided to customers in this state and functionally equivalent to the
475 service described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, or (ii) used to
476 evade the requirements established in this section, and (C) excludes
477 dial-up Internet access service;

478 (3) "Broadband Internet access service provider" means any person
479 who provides broadband Internet access service in this state;

480 (4) "Consumer" means an individual in this state who is an actual or
481 prospective recipient of consumer goods or consumer services;

482 (5) "Content" means all traffic transmitted to or from end users of a
483 broadband Internet access service;

484 (6) "Edge provider" means any person who provides (A) any content
485 over the Internet, or (B) a device used for accessing any content over the
486 Internet;

487 (7) "End user" means any person in this state who uses a broadband
488 Internet access service;

489 (8) "Fixed broadband Internet access service" (A) means any
490 broadband Internet access service that services end users primarily at
491 fixed endpoints by using stationary equipment, and (B) includes, but is
492 not limited to, any fixed wireless service, fixed unlicensed wireless
493 service or fixed satellite service;

494 (9) "Mobile broadband Internet access service" means any broadband
495 Internet access service that serves end users primarily by using mobile
496 stations;

497 (10) "Paid prioritization" means the management of a broadband
498 Internet access service provider's network to, directly or indirectly,

499 favor some content or traffic over other content or traffic, including, but
500 not limited to, through use of techniques such as traffic shaping,
501 prioritization, resource reservation or any other form of preferential
502 content or traffic management, (A) in exchange for monetary or other
503 consideration from a third party, or (B) to benefit any entity affiliated
504 with the broadband Internet access service provider;

505 (11) "Person" means an individual, association, corporation, limited
506 liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity;

507 (12) "Reasonable network management practice" means any network
508 management practice that (A) is primarily justified as technical network
509 management, or (B) the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
510 determines is primarily used for, and tailored to, achieving a legitimate
511 network management purpose, taking into account the particular
512 network architecture and technology of the broadband Internet access
513 service; and

514 (13) "State agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-79
515 of the general statutes.

516 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Public Utilities Regulatory
517 Authority shall develop a procedure by which a broadband Internet
518 access service provider who is engaged in the business of providing any
519 fixed broadband Internet access service or mobile broadband Internet
520 access service in this state shall submit to the authority, at least annually
521 and in a form and manner prescribed by the authority, a registration and
522 certification that such broadband Internet access service provider is in
523 compliance with:

524 (1) The final open Internet rules, if any, adopted by the Federal
525 Communications Commission; or

526 (2) The provisions of subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of
527 subsection (c) of this section.

528 (c) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection and

529 beginning on April 1, 2026, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
530 shall issue a certificate of net neutrality compliance to any broadband
531 Internet access service provider who submits to the authority the
532 registration and certification required under subsection (b) of this
533 section if such broadband Internet access service provider certifies that
534 such broadband Internet access service provider:

535 (A) Is in compliance with the final open Internet rules, if any, adopted
536 by the Federal Communications Commission; or

537 (B) (i) Does not engage in any of the following practices in the state
538 with respect to consumers:

539 (I) Blocking lawful content, or nonharmful devices, subject to
540 reasonable network management practices that such broadband
541 Internet access service provider has disclosed to consumers;

542 (II) Impairing or degrading lawful Internet traffic on the basis of
543 content, or the use of any nonharmful device, subject to reasonable
544 network management practices that such broadband Internet access
545 service provider has disclosed to consumers;

546 (III) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, paid
547 prioritization; or

548 (IV) Except for any interference caused by a reasonable network
549 management practice, unreasonably interfering with or unreasonably
550 disadvantaging a consumer's ability to select, access and use broadband
551 Internet access service or lawful content or devices of the consumer's
552 choice, or an edge provider's ability to make lawful content or devices
553 available to a consumer; and

554 (ii) (I) Is in compliance with the regulations promulgated by the
555 Federal Communications Commission pursuant to 47 USC 1753, as
556 amended from time to time; or

557 (II) Publicly discloses to consumers accurate information concerning
558 such broadband Internet access service provider's network

559 management practices, performance and the commercial terms of such
560 broadband Internet access service provider's broadband Internet access
561 services, which disclosure shall be sufficient for a consumer to make an
562 informed decision regarding the consumer's use of such broadband
563 Internet access services and a developer of content, or a device provider,
564 to develop, market and maintain Internet offerings.

565 (2) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall not issue a
566 certificate of net neutrality compliance to a broadband Internet access
567 service provider pursuant to this subsection if the authority has
568 determined that the broadband Internet access service provider is not in
569 compliance with:

570 (A) The final open Internet rules, if any, adopted by the Federal
571 Communications Commission; or

572 (B) The provisions of subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this
573 subsection.

574 (d) Any end user of broadband Internet access service may file a
575 complaint with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority alleging
576 noncompliance with the provisions of this section. Upon receipt of any
577 such complaint, the authority shall record such complaint and may,
578 based on such complaint, initiate a review of the performance of a
579 broadband Internet access service provider engaged in the provision of
580 fixed broadband Internet access service or mobile broadband Internet
581 access service. The authority, upon a finding that any such broadband
582 Internet access service provider failed to comply with the provisions of
583 subsection (c) of this section, shall conduct a hearing, which shall be
584 conducted as a contested case in accordance with chapter 54 of the
585 general statutes, and after such hearing shall issue orders to enforce the
586 provisions of this section. The authority may assess against such
587 broadband Internet access service provider a civil penalty in the amount
588 of not more than ten thousand dollars for each violation of the
589 provisions of this section.

590 (e) Each contract between a state agency and a broadband Internet

591 access service provider that is entered into or renewed on or after April
592 1, 2026, shall include a provision requiring the broadband Internet
593 access service provider to abide by the requirements established in
594 subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

595 (f) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may authorize a
596 broadband Internet access service provider to engage in paid
597 prioritization if:

598 (1) The broadband Internet access service provider (A) is engaged in
599 the provision of fixed or mobile broadband Internet access service, and
600 (B) demonstrates, to the authority's satisfaction, that such paid
601 prioritization would (i) provide a significant public benefit, and (ii) not
602 harm the open nature of the Internet in the state; and

603 (2) The authority finds that such paid prioritization would (A)
604 provide a significant public benefit, and (B) not harm the open nature of
605 the Internet in the state.

606 (g) Nothing in this section shall be construed as superseding or
607 limiting any existing obligation or authorization of a broadband Internet
608 access service provider engaged in the provision of fixed or mobile
609 broadband Internet access services to address the needs of emergency
610 communications, law enforcement, public safety or national security
611 authorities, consistent with or as permitted by applicable law. Nothing
612 in this section shall be construed to prohibit reasonable efforts by a
613 broadband Internet access service provider engaged in the provision of
614 fixed or mobile broadband Internet access services to address copyright
615 infringement or other unlawful activity.

616 (h) The terms and definitions of this section shall be interpreted
617 broadly, and any exceptions thereto interpreted narrowly, using
618 relevant Federal Communications Commission orders, advisory
619 opinions, rulings and regulations as persuasive guidance.

620 (i) In the event of any conflict between any provision of this section
621 and any applicable federal law, regulation or final rule, such federal law,

622 regulation or final rule shall prevail.

623 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

624 (1) "Person" means an individual, association, corporation, limited
625 liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity;

626 (2) "Streaming service" means a service that (A) is available on a
627 subscription basis, and (B) delivers audio, video or audio and video
628 content in a compressed form over the Internet in real time;

629 (3) "Streaming service provider" means a person doing business in
630 this state who offers or provides a streaming service to a subscriber; and

631 (4) "Subscriber" means a person in this state who subscribes to a
632 streaming service offered or provided by a streaming service provider.

633 (b) If a streaming service provider offers or provides any streaming
634 service to a subscriber in exchange for a charge that is less than thirty
635 dollars per billing period, or to a subscriber who has been a subscriber
636 to such streaming service for a period of less than three months or one
637 full billing period, whichever is longer, the streaming service provider
638 shall, if the subscriber submits to such streaming service provider a
639 request to cancel such subscriber's subscription to such streaming
640 service, (1) send notice to such subscriber confirming that such
641 streaming service provider (A) has received such cancellation request,
642 and (B) shall cancel such subscription at the end of the billing period
643 during which such streaming service provider received such
644 cancellation request, (2) cancel such subscription at the end of such
645 billing period, and (3) not impose any charge on such subscriber for such
646 cancelled subscription for any period after such billing period.

647 (c) If a streaming service provider offers or provides any streaming
648 service to a subscriber in exchange for a charge that is at least thirty
649 dollars per billing period, and such subscriber has been a subscriber to
650 such streaming service for a period of at least three months or one full
651 billing period, whichever is longer, the streaming service provider shall,

652 at the option of such subscriber, (1) (A) cancel such subscriber's
653 subscription at the end of the billing period during which such
654 streaming service provider receives a cancellation request from such
655 subscriber, (B) send notice to such subscriber confirming that such
656 streaming service provider (i) has received such cancellation request,
657 and (ii) shall cancel such subscription at the end of such billing period,
658 and (C) not impose any charge on such subscriber for such cancelled
659 subscription for any period after such billing period, or (2) (A)
660 immediately cancel such subscriber's subscription on the date such
661 streaming service provider receives a cancellation and pro rata rebate
662 request from such subscriber, (B) send notice to such subscriber
663 confirming that such streaming service provider (i) has received such
664 cancellation and pro rata rebate request, (ii) immediately cancelled such
665 subscriber's subscription, and (iii) shall provide to such subscriber a pro
666 rata rebate for all days of the billing period during which such streaming
667 service provider received such cancellation and pro rata rebate request,
668 (C) provide such pro rata rebate to such subscriber, and (D) not impose
669 any charge on such subscriber for such cancelled subscription for any
670 period after the date on which such streaming service provider received
671 such cancellation and pro rata rebate request.

672 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this
673 section, unless the context otherwise requires:

674 (1) "Antenna" includes, but is not limited to, any resonant device that
675 is designed especially for the purpose of capturing electromagnetic
676 energy transmitted by direct satellite or commercial radio or television
677 broadcasting facilities;

678 (2) "Authorized repair provider" (A) means a person who (i) is
679 unaffiliated with a manufacturer, and (ii) has an arrangement with a
680 manufacturer (I) under which the manufacturer grants to the person a
681 license to use a trade name, service mark or other proprietary identifier
682 to offer diagnostic, maintenance or repair services for electronic or
683 appliance products under the manufacturer's name, or (II) to offer
684 diagnostic, maintenance or repair services for electronic or appliance

685 products on behalf of the manufacturer, and (B) includes a
686 manufacturer, with respect to any of such manufacturer's electronic or
687 appliance products, if the manufacturer (i) offers diagnostic,
688 maintenance or repair services for such product, and (ii) does not have
689 an arrangement with an unaffiliated person to diagnose, maintain or
690 repair such product;

691 (3) "Documentation" means any electronic or appliance product
692 diagram, manual, reporting output, schematic, service code description
693 or similar information that a manufacturer provides to an authorized
694 repair provider or, if the manufacturer does not have an authorized
695 repair provider, the manufacturer uses for the purpose of diagnosing,
696 maintaining or repairing an electronic or appliance product;

697 (4) "Electronic or appliance product" or "product" (A) means any
698 antenna, electronic set, major home appliance or rotator (i) that is
699 manufactured for the first time, and first sold or used in this state, on or
700 after January 1, 2025, and (ii) for which the manufacturer makes
701 documentation, parts and tools available to an authorized repair
702 provider, (B) includes, but is not limited to, any item set forth in
703 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision that is sold through any method
704 other than a direct retail sale, and (C) does not include any (i) alarm
705 system, as defined in section 29-6c of the general statutes, (ii) motor
706 vehicle, as defined in section 13b-387 of the general statutes, or any
707 component used to maintain, manufacture or repair any motor vehicle,
708 or (iii) video game console;

709 (5) "Electronic set" includes, but is not limited to, any audio or video
710 recorder or playback equipment, computer system, facsimile machine,
711 photocopier, radio, television, video camera or video monitor that is
712 normally used or sold for personal, family, household or home office
713 use;

714 (6) "Fair and reasonable terms" means terms that satisfy the
715 requirements established in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this
716 section;

717 (7) "Manufacturer" means the person who manufactures an electronic
718 or appliance product;

719 (8) "Major home appliance" includes, but is not limited to, any
720 dishwasher, dryer, freezer, microwave oven, range, refrigerator, room
721 air conditioner, trash compactor or washer that is normally used or sold
722 for personal, family, household or home office use;

723 (9) "Part" means any replacement component or assembly of
724 components, either new or used, which the manufacturer of an
725 electronic or appliance product makes available to an authorized repair
726 provider to facilitate the maintenance or repair of such product;

727 (10) "Person" means an individual, association, corporation, limited
728 liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity;

729 (11) "Rotator" includes, but is not limited to, an electromechanical
730 device, used in connection with an antenna installation or repair, that is
731 operated from a remote location to rotate an antenna on a horizontal
732 plane;

733 (12) "Service dealer" means any person who (A) is not an authorized
734 repair provider or manufacturer, and (B) for compensation, engages in
735 the business of, or holds such person out to the public as engaging in
736 the business of, installing, maintaining, repairing or servicing any
737 electronic or appliance product;

738 (13) "Tool" (A) means any hardware implement, software program or
739 other apparatus that the manufacturer of an electronic or appliance
740 product makes available to an authorized repair provider for the
741 diagnosis, maintenance or repair of such product, and (B) includes, but
742 is not limited to, (i) any software or other mechanism that provisions,
743 programs, pairs a part, provides or calibrates functionality or performs
744 any other function necessary to repair an electronic or appliance
745 product, or a part thereof, and return such product or part to its fully
746 functional condition, and (ii) any update to any software or mechanism
747 described in subparagraph (B)(i) of this subdivision;

748 (14) "Trade secret" has the same meaning as provided in section 35-
749 51 of the general statutes; and

750 (15) "Video game console" (A) means any computing device,
751 including, but not limited to, any console machine, handheld console
752 device or similar device or system, that is primarily used by consumers
753 to play video games, (B) includes, but is not limited to, the components
754 and peripherals of any computing device described in subparagraph (A)
755 of this subdivision, and (C) does not include any (i) general or all-
756 purpose computing device, (ii) desktop, laptop or tablet computer, or
757 (iii) hand-held mobile telephone, as defined in section 14-296aa of the
758 general statutes.

759 (b) (1) The manufacturer of an electronic or appliance product shall
760 make available, on fair and reasonable terms, to the owners of such
761 product, service and repair facilities and service dealers documentation
762 and functional parts and tools, inclusive of any updates thereto, that are
763 sufficient to effect the diagnosis, maintenance or repair of such product:

764 (A) For at least three years after the last date on which such
765 manufacturer manufactured an electronic or appliance product of the
766 same model or type if such product has a wholesale price to a retailer,
767 or to any other person in any sale other than a direct retail sale, of at
768 least fifty dollars but less than one hundred dollars, which wholesale
769 price shall not exceed the manufacturer's suggested retail price for such
770 electronic or appliance product; or

771 (B) For at least five years after the last date on which such
772 manufacturer manufactured an electronic or appliance product of the
773 same model or type if such product has a wholesale price to a retailer,
774 or to any person in any sale other than a direct retail sale, of at least one
775 hundred dollars, which wholesale price shall not exceed the
776 manufacturer's suggested retail price for such electronic or appliance
777 product.

778 (2) The time periods set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
779 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply regardless of whether such

780 time periods exceed the term of any warranty period for the electronic
781 or appliance product.

782 (3) (A) For the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection and
783 except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the
784 manufacturer of an electronic or appliance product shall be deemed to
785 have made documentation, functional parts and tools available on fair
786 and reasonable terms if:

787 (i) Such manufacturer makes such documentation, parts and tools
788 available at costs and on terms that are equivalent to the most favorable
789 costs and terms under which such manufacturer offers such
790 documentation, parts and tools to authorized repair providers,
791 accounting for any discount, rebate, convenient and timely means of
792 delivery, means of enabling fully restored and updated functionality,
793 rights of use or other incentive or preference such manufacturer offers
794 to authorized repair providers;

795 (ii) For documentation, such manufacturer makes such
796 documentation, including any relevant updates thereto, available at no
797 charge, except such manufacturer may impose a charge for the
798 reasonable actual costs incurred by such manufacturer in preparing and
799 sending a physical printed version of such documentation to an owner,
800 service and repair facility or service dealer if the owner, service and
801 repair facility or service dealer requests a physical printed version of
802 such documentation; and

803 (iii) For tools, such manufacturer makes such tools available at no
804 charge and without imposing any impediment to access or use such
805 tools to diagnose, maintain or repair and enable full functionality of
806 such product, or in a manner that does not impair the efficient and cost-
807 effective performance of any such diagnosis, maintenance or repair,
808 except such manufacturer may impose a charge for the reasonable
809 actual costs incurred by such manufacturer in preparing and sending
810 such tools to an owner, service and repair facility or service dealer in
811 physical form if the owner, service and repair facility or service dealer

812 requests such tools in physical form.

813 (B) If a manufacturer does not use an authorized repair provider, the
814 manufacturer of an electronic or appliance product shall be deemed to
815 have made documentation, functional parts and tools available on fair
816 and reasonable terms if such manufacturer makes such documentation,
817 parts and tools available at a price that reflects the actual costs incurred
818 by such manufacturer in preparing and delivering such documentation,
819 parts and tools, excluding any research and development costs.

820 (c) If a service dealer or service and repair facility is not an authorized
821 repair provider for an electronic or appliance product, the service dealer
822 or service and repair facility shall, before repairing any such product,
823 provide to the customer who requests such repair a written notice
824 disclosing:

825 (1) That such service dealer or service and repair facility is not an
826 authorized repair provider for such product; and

827 (2) Whether such service dealer or service and repair facility uses any
828 (A) used replacement parts, or (B) replacement parts provided by a
829 supplier other than the manufacturer of such product.

830 (d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no
831 manufacturer or authorized repair provider shall be liable for any
832 damage or injury caused to any electronic or appliance product, person
833 or property that occurs as a result of any diagnosis, maintenance,
834 modification or repair performed by an owner or a service dealer,
835 including, but not limited to:

836 (A) Any indirect, incidental, special or consequential damages;

837 (B) Any loss of data, privacy or profits; or

838 (C) Any inability to use, or reduced functionality of, such product.

839 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply
840 to any design defect or manufacturing flaw that existed prior to, or

841 independent of, any diagnosis, maintenance, modification or repair
842 described in said subdivision.

843 (e) No provision of this section shall be construed to:

844 (1) Require the manufacturer of an electronic or appliance product to
845 (A) disclose any trade secret, or license any intellectual property,
846 including, but not limited to, any copyright or patent, unless such
847 disclosure or license is necessary for such manufacturer to comply with
848 the provisions of this section, (B) make available any special
849 documentation, tools or parts that would disable or override antitheft
850 security measures set by the owner of any such product without such
851 owner's authorization, or (C) sell any part if such manufacturer no
852 longer (i) provides such part, or (ii) makes such part available to
853 authorized repair providers;

854 (2) Require any manufacturer of an electronic or appliance product
855 that is an authorized repair provider within the meaning of
856 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section to
857 make available any documentation or tools that (A) such manufacturer
858 exclusively uses to perform, at no cost to customers, remote diagnostic
859 services, including, but not limited to, remote diagnostic services
860 performed by way of the Internet, electronic mail or any chat function
861 or telephonic means, that do not require such manufacturer to
862 physically handle a customer's electronic or appliance product, unless
863 such manufacturer also makes such documentation or tools available to
864 any person who is unaffiliated with such manufacturer, or (B) are
865 exclusively used by machines that simultaneously repair several
866 electronic or appliance products, provided such manufacturer makes
867 available to the owners of such product, service and repair facilities and
868 service dealers sufficient alternative documentation and tools to
869 diagnose, maintain or repair such product;

870 (3) Require distribution of the source code for an electronic or
871 appliance product; or

872 (4) Apply to (A) the manufacturer of an electronic or appliance

873 product if such manufacturer provides to a customer, at no charge to the
874 customer, a replacement electronic or appliance product that is readily
875 available and equivalent to, or better than, the replaced electronic or
876 appliance product, (B) any dealer, distributor, importer or manufacturer
877 of any equipment designed and manufactured exclusively for off-road
878 or nonroad use, including, but not limited to, any (i) all-terrain sports
879 vehicle, (ii) construction or compact construction equipment, (iii)
880 electric vehicle charging infrastructure equipment, (iv) farm or utility
881 tractor, (v) farm implement, (vi) farm machinery, (vii) forestry
882 equipment, (viii) fuel cell, (ix) garden, turf or yard equipment, (x)
883 generator set, (xi) industrial equipment, (xii) integrated, stand-alone,
884 mobile or stationary internal combustion engine, (xiii) marine vehicle,
885 (xiv) mining equipment, (xv) outdoor power equipment, (xvi) portable
886 generator, (xvii) power tool, (xviii) racing vehicle, (xix) recreational
887 vehicle, as defined in section 14-1 of the general statutes, (xx) road
888 building equipment, or (xxi) utility equipment, or (C) any accessory,
889 attachment, component, repair part, technology or tool for any
890 equipment described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision.

891 (f) A violation of this section shall be deemed an unfair or deceptive
892 trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general
893 statutes.

894 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions
895 of any municipal charter, special act or home rule ordinance, not later
896 than July 1, 2026, each municipality shall (1) register a ".gov" Internet
897 top-level domain for such municipality with the Cybersecurity and
898 Infrastructure Security Agency within the United States Department of
899 Homeland Security, and (2) redirect any existing Internet web site
900 addresses maintained by such municipality to such domain or
901 discontinue the use of such addresses. On and after July 1, 2026, each
902 municipality shall maintain an Internet web site with a ".gov" Internet
903 top-level domain. For the purposes of this section, "municipality" has
904 the same meaning as provided in section 7-479a of the general statutes."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>January 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section