

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3517

To establish a program to assist States and local governments for the conduct of electronic governance transactions at libraries and elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a program to assist States and local governments for the conduct of electronic governance transactions at libraries and elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Greater Access to E-
5 Governance Act” or the “GATE Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 It is the purpose of this Act to establish a grant pro-
8 gram to provide funds to State and local governments to

1 enable them to deploy broadband computer networks for
2 the conduct of electronic governance transactions by citi-
3 zens in local schools and libraries.

4 **SEC. 3. GRANT AUTHORIZATION.**

5 (a) TERMS FOR AUTHORIZATION.—From the funds
6 appropriated under section 6, the Secretary shall make
7 grants to State governments and units of local government
8 to carry out activities consistent with subsection (b). Such
9 grants shall—

10 (1) be awarded to urban and rural governments
11 that are deploying or plan to deploy community-
12 based schools or communities of learning which will
13 utilize electronic governance transactions processing
14 systems; and

15 (2) contain such other provision as the Sec-
16 retary considers necessary pursuant to this Act.

17 (b) USE OF GRANT PROCEEDS.—Grants made avail-
18 able to a State government or unit of local government
19 under this Act may be used—

20 (1) to hire contractors or non-profit organiza-
21 tions to deploy and manage the broadband computer
22 networks needed to permit citizens to conduct gov-
23 ernance transactions electronically rather than on
24 paper;

- 1 (2) to acquire broadband infrastructure, com-
2 puters, and other equipment for such networks; and
3 (3) to acquire related software and services to
4 support such networks.

5 **SEC. 4. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.**

6 (a) GRANT ALLOCATION CRITERIA.—Under the cri-
7 teria set forth under this section, the Secretary shall de-
8 cide which State governments and units of local govern-
9 ments will be awarded grants to carry out activity con-
10 sistent with section 3(b).

11 (b) ALLOCATION CRITERIA.—Such criteria shall—

12 (1) require cost-benefit analysis for deployment
13 of broadband infrastructure, network and equip-
14 ment;

15 (2) require that the Federal share of the cost
16 of any such activity not exceed 60 percent;

17 (3) require documentation that clearly defines
18 preexisting user fee-driven government transactions
19 and service delivery processing systems, paper or
20 electronic, that can be readily deployed to the World
21 Wide Web;

22 (4) require documented expertise in information
23 technology deployment by the deployment entity;

24 (5) require deployment partnership contracts;

1 (6) designate grant allocation to State agencies,
2 such as departments of education or departments of
3 community affairs, that statutorily distribute govern-
4 mental resources to city, regional, and local units of
5 government, financing authorities, and school dis-
6 tricts; and

7 (7) require that any State government that re-
8 ceives a grant under this Act will ensure that at
9 least 50 percent of such grant will be used for the
10 benefit of rural areas in such State.

11 **SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.**

12 The Secretary may issue such regulations as may be
13 necessary and appropriate to carry out this Act.

14 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated to make
16 grants under this Act such sums as may be necessary for
17 fiscal year 2003 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

18 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

19 For the purposes of this Act:

20 (1) **BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE.**—The term
21 “broadband infrastructure” means fiber optic, dig-
22 ital subscriber lines (DSL), cable transmission,
23 broadband wireless, and broadband satellite medi-
24 ums.

1 (2) ELECTRONIC GOVERNANCE TRANS-
2 ACTION.—The term “electronic governance trans-
3 action” means any electronic transaction between a
4 citizen and an agency of State or local government,
5 exercised both by the public through the democratic
6 process, and by the executive, legislative, and judi-
7 cial branches of government in their management
8 and oversight of operations, and includes issuing of
9 marriage licenses, building permits, professional li-
10 censes, or other licenses, registrations, permits,
11 deeds, titles, certificates, or records, and providing
12 of government services, including electronic benefits
13 transfer, technology skills training, distance or life-
14 long learning, business and industry educational
15 needs, and other relevant government services.

16 (3) DEPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT.—
17 The term “deployment partnership contract” means
18 a legally binding contract entered into by all relevant
19 entities participating in the repayment process.

20 (4) DEPLOYMENT ENTITY.—The term “deploy-
21 ment entity” means the State agency, local govern-
22 ment unit, private sector company, or nonprofit or-
23 ganization contracted to deploy and manage the
24 broadband networked computer system.

1 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Commerce.

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