An Act To Increase High-speed Internet In Rural Maine

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

CONCEPT DRAFT

SUMMARY

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill would expand high-speed Internet access in rural communities in the State by creating incentives for companies to expand their services to those communities. It would expand the definition of "rural" to include specific levels not included in the federal definition. Each level would create more incentives for companies to connect to the most rural areas of the State. It would propose 4 tiers for populations under 2,500 people:

1. Rural tier 1: 2,000-2,499;
2. Rural tier 2: 1,500-1,999;
3. Rural tier 3: 1,000-1,499; and
4. Rural tier 4: fewer than 1,000.

Tax breaks would be offered to companies to help offset the costs of expanding to the rural areas, which would become available once 90% of the citizens of a community are connected to high-speed Internet service.