



Telecommunications & Information Technology

During the 2020 legislative session, the General Assembly considered several measures related to telecommunications and information technology, including the Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA), online platforms, telecommunication systems, other technologies, broadband, and information technology (IT) funding.

Statewide Internal Portal Authority

The General Assembly passed two bills concerning SIPA. SIPA offers IT products and services to local governments and Colorado state agencies. *Senate Bill 20-183*, recommended by the Joint Technology Committee (JTC), expands the definition of state agency to include the Legislative and Judicial Departments; the Departments of Education, Law, State, and Treasury; and higher education institutions. The bill allows SIPA to provide services and support to these agencies.

Online Platforms

The state operates and maintains several online platforms for state agencies. *House Bill 20-1396* creates the Work Force Development Council Online Career Platform. The bill requires the state Work Force Development Council and the Colorado Departments of Higher Education, Labor and Employment, and Human Services

to implement and maintain a free online platform to provide Coloradans with personalized information to assist them in making career and education planning decisions. The bill also requires the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) to ensure that the developed platform complies with all state and federal IT security and privacy requirements. *House Bill 20-1039* creates an online transparency task force to develop and provide recommendations to the General Assembly, including:

- ways to enhance citizens' online access to the state rulemaking process;
- options for the design and implementation of an integrated web portal;
- how to create common rulemaking agency reporting formats; and
- how to form an entity to manage an integrated state rulemaking portal.

The executive director of SIPA is the chair of the task force, and the head of each state department and the state Chief Information Officer are encouraged to participate.

Telecommunication Systems

House Bill 20-1197 requires the Colorado 2-1-1 Collaborative to provide necessary human services referral services related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. *House Bill 20-1293* makes several changes to the current

Telecommunications & Information Technology (cont'd)

local emergency telephone charge; the prepaid wireless charge; and creates a new 911 surcharge. *House Bill 20-1173*, which was postponed indefinitely, would have exempted counties from excavation notification requirements for routine or emergency maintenance of right-of-ways on county-owned gravel or dirt roads.

Other Technologies

Three bills related to other technologies were postponed indefinitely. *Senate Bill 20-092* would have regulated the use of robotic devices for delivery in pedestrian areas and on highways. *House Bill 20-1195* would have required manufacturers of digital electronic equipment to make documentation, parts, embedded software, or tools to service the equipment available to any independent repair provider or owner, and would have made any violations of these requirements an unfair or deceptive trade practice. Finally, *House Bill 20-1227* would have required a Colorado-based provider of a commercial mobile radio service to make network-level distraction control technology available to customers to limit distracting content while users are driving.

Broadband

House Bill 20-1137 makes changes to the Broadband Development Board's application for grant funding. The bill allows grant applicants to submit a written certificate from a local entity that the area applying for the grant is an underserved area, and requires the board to give substantial weight to an application that has a local entity's written certification. *Senate Bill 20-128*, which was postponed indefinitely, would have authorized electric generation and transmission cooperative associations to install

broadband facilities on an electric utility easement.

IT Funding

House Bill 20-1309, which was postponed indefinitely, would have created a temporary income tax credit for employers that allow workers to telecommute.

Every year, agencies and institutes of higher education submit budget requests to the JTC to receive state funding for IT projects. *House Bill 20-1360*, also known as the 2020 Long Bill, includes funding for IT projects approved by the JTC for FY 2020-21. *House Bill 20-1259* and *House Bill 20-1261* include supplemental IT funding approved by the JTC for previous fiscal years.

Other IT-Related Bills

The General Assembly considered three other IT-related bills, which were postponed indefinitely. *Senate Bill 20-198* would have authorized OIT to recruit and hire information technology managers, designers, engineers, and other staff to support the delivery of citizen-facing digital services and other projects across state government. *House Bill 20-1315* would have required an owner or operator of a carpooling service internet application to register with the Colorado Department of Transportation. *House Bill 20-1267* would have required providers of telecommunication services in jails to maintain and report certain data to the PUC, and would have granted the commission authority over these service providers.