

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 710

S.P. 227

February 13, 2007

An Act To Promote Rural Broadband Access

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator RAYE of Washington.

Cosponsored by Representative PERCY of Phippsburg, Representative PINGREE of North Haven and Senators: BENOIT of Sagadahoc, SHERMAN of Aroostook, SMITH of Piscataquis, Representatives: BLANCHARD of Old Town, FISCHER of Presque Isle, FLETCHER of Winslow, RECTOR of Thomaston, SMITH of Monmouth.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**
3 **SUMMARY**

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

5 This bill seeks to establish a position in State Government with the mission of
6 promoting the development of telecommunications infrastructure and capacity in rural
7 areas of this State and to establish a challenge grant fund. This position would be
8 charged with coordinating the State's efforts to identify need, create options and provide
9 support at the local level. This position would provide advocacy and technical support to
10 help communities, businesses and nonprofits obtain funds that would help them advance
11 their communications vision. The challenge grant fund would leverage funds available
12 from a variety of sources, including funds currently available from the Federal
13 Government to expand broadband access in rural areas.