

[Third Reprint]

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 124

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 7, 1996

By Assemblymen **WOLFE** and **DORIA**

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the Board of Public Utilities to establish
2 an advisory panel to study the issue of universal service and the impact of
3 universal service on New Jersey's educational system.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, The education of the children of New Jersey is of the highest
6 priority and all of New Jersey's students need to acquire the critical thinking
7 and problem solving skills necessary to become productive citizens in the
8 next century; and

9 **WHEREAS**, It is necessary to provide all children in New Jersey with the
10 knowledge and skills necessary to become contributing members of a
11 global, information-based society; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Elementary and secondary schools must prepare students to use
13 the information and telecommunications technologies of the next century;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, Because schools and libraries are in a unique position to serve as
16 key points of affordable access to the information superhighway, and
17 because school- and library-based networks have the potential to become
18 community learning centers, such networks should be designed in a
19 collaborative effort with the educational community to ensure that they can
20 effectively meet the educational needs of all New Jersey residents; and

21 **WHEREAS**, The federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 supports the goal
22 of creating a technologically rich learning environment by requiring that the
23 provision of universal service encompass deployment of advanced
24 telecommunications services to schools and libraries at discounted rates;
25 and

26 **WHEREAS**, The federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 specifically
27 preserves the authority of each state to adopt its own regulations,
28 consistent with any rules promulgated by the Federal Communications

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly AED committee amendments adopted March 3, 1997.

² Assembly floor amendments adopted March 13, 1997.

³ Assembly floor amendments adopted May 8, 1997.

1 Commission, to preserve and advance universal service, including the
2 adoption of mechanisms to support access to advanced
3 telecommunications services for schools and libraries within a state; and

4 **WHEREAS**, While a competitive environment is desirable, such an environment
5 alone is not adequate to ensure that telecommunications providers will offer
6 affordable rates for advanced telecommunications services to the
7 educational community, and rates for schools and libraries should be
8 sufficiently and permanently discounted to ensure that all
9 telecommunications services, including, but not limited to, the provision of
10 distance learning, video conferencing, and full graphical Internet access, are
11 truly affordable for all schools and libraries; and

12 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey educational community is a necessary participant
13 in the dialogue on how to provide educators and students with advanced
14 telecommunications services needed to improve the quality and efficiency
15 of the educational process and prepare the next generation to become
16 leaders in a technology-intensive society; and

17 **WHEREAS**, The definition of telecommunications services for schools and
18 libraries that are eligible to receive universal service support should allow
19 schools and libraries to choose from all available technologies and
20 telecommunications services, recognizing that no two schools and libraries
21 have the same technological needs, and that schools and libraries should be
22 allowed to select the most appropriate services for their individual
23 educational goals; and

24 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities should rely on the
25 expertise of the State's educational community, which is comprised of many
26 segments, each with its own unique perspective and expertise, in
27 developing universal service policies and regulations that are effective in
28 advancing the educational goals and objectives of the State relative to the
29 deployment of advanced telecommunications and information technologies;
30 and

31 **WHEREAS**, It is, therefore, altogether fitting and proper, and within the public
32 interest, to urge the Board of Public Utilities to establish a broad-based
33 Education Advisory Panel on Universal Service to make recommendations
34 to the board on those universal service issues that are related to and impact
35 upon New Jersey's education system; now, therefore,

36

37 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

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39 1. This House urges the Board of Public Utilities to establish a broad-
40 based Education Advisory Panel on Universal Service to receive testimony
41 and other information and to advise the board on how it should design and
42 implement universal service policies and regulations to best meet the
43 educational needs of New Jersey's students and expand access for schools

1 1[and] 1 libraries 1and colleges and universities1 to advanced
2 telecommunications services.

3

4 2. The Education Advisory Panel on Universal Service should represent
5 all segments of the educational community and, at a minimum, should include
6 one representative from each of the following:

7 (a) The New Jersey School Boards Association;

8 (b) The New Jersey Association of School Administrators;

9 (c) The New Jersey Association of School Business Officials;

10 (d) The New Jersey Education Association;

11 (e) The New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association;

12 (f) The New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers;

13 (g) The Commission on Business Efficiency of the Public Schools;

14 (h) The Joint Committee on Public Schools of the New Jersey Legislature;

15 (i) The Education Committee of the New Jersey Senate;

16 (j) The Education Committee of the New Jersey General Assembly;

17 (k) The New Jersey Department of Education; 1[and]1

18 (l) The American Federation of Teachers 1;

19 (m) The New Jersey Commission on Higher Education; 3[and]3

20 (n) The New Jersey Presidents' Council1 3[.

21 2The President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker
22 of the General Assembly, and the Minority Leader of the General Assembly
23 shall each appoint one member to the advisory panel from among the
24 representatives outlined pursuant to this section.2] ;and

25 (o) The New Jersey Catholic Conference.3

26

27 3. The Education Advisory Panel on Universal Service should include 1at
28 least1 one representative from each of the following fields: cable;
29 telecommunications; broadcast; and computer industries. The President of the
30 Board of Public Utilities and the Ratepayer Advocate should also participate
31 on the panel as 1[ex officio]1 members.

32

33 34. The President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the
34 Speaker of the General Assembly, and the Minority Leader of the General
35 Assembly shall each appoint one member of the advisory panel from among
36 the representatives outlined pursuant to sections 2 and 3 of this resolution.3

37

38 3[4.]5.3 The Board of Public Utilities should consider the recommendations
39 of the Education Advisory Panel on Universal Service and take such
40 recommendations fully into account before

1 adopting any rule, regulation, or policy pertaining to universal service to
2 schools and libraries.

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4 §5] 6.3 Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker
5 of the General Assembly and attested to by the Clerk thereof, shall be
6 transmitted to the President and Commissioners of the New Jersey Board of
7 Public Utilities and the Director of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities'
8 Division of Telecommunications.

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13 Urges BPU to establish an "Education Advisory Panel on Universal Service."