

RESOLUTION NO. 287

URGING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO APPROVE THE OMNIBUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS REFORM ACT EMBODIED IN ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3980B/SENATE BILL NO. 5124

Introduced: 6/11/07

By Messrs. Aidala, Aylward, Beston, Burke, Clay, Collins, Commisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Cotrofeld, Dawson, Domalewicz, Ethier, Feeney, Gordon, Horstmyer, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, McCoy, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Monjeau, Morse, Nichols, Reilly, Riddick, Shafer, Ward, Mss. Wiley and Willingham:

WHEREAS, The omnibus Telecommunications Reform Act of 2007 under consideration by the New York State Legislature would make fundamental reforms in the constantly evolving industry to guarantee that New York State residents are provided with universal access to telecommunications services at just and reasonable rates and at the same time require telecommunications companies to invest in the infrastructure and provide adequate staffing for reliable service, and

WHEREAS, The reform act, embodied in Assembly Bill No. 3980B and Senate Bill No. 5124, specifically would create a broadband authority to promote wide-spread development of high-capacity broadband internet access through the use of public-private partnerships with a goal of bridging the digital divide to reach rural, inner-city and low income households and other underserved areas of the State, and

WHEREAS, Another key component of the Telecommunications Reform Act would authorize statewide cable franchises to increase competition, lower prices and improve service offerings for consumers while at the same time preserving the power of municipalities to manage public rights of way and retain their ability to collect franchise fees and administer Public Education and Government Access channels, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature urges the New York State Legislature to enact the omnibus Telecommunications Reform Act of 2007 as specified in Assembly Bill No. 3980B and Senate Bill No. 5124, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and to the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Public Safety Committee. 6/11/07