

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.2-225.1, relating to establishing*
3 *the Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance; sunset.*

4 [H 1017]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 2.2-225.1 as follows:**8 *§ 2.2-225.1. Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance.*

9 *A. There is hereby established the Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance in the*
10 *office of the Secretary of Technology, consisting of a director, appointed by the Secretary of Technology,*
11 *and such additional telework and broadband professionals as deemed necessary. The goals of the Office*
12 *are to encourage telework as a family-friendly, business-friendly public policy that promotes workplace*
13 *efficiency and reduces strain on transportation infrastructure. In conjunction with efforts to promote*
14 *telework, the Office shall work with public and private entities to develop widespread access to*
15 *broadband services. It shall be the duty of the director of the Office to advise the Secretary and the*
16 *Board of Directors of the Innovative Technology Authority, generally.*

17 *B. The director shall have the following duties:*

18 *1. Promote and encourage use of telework alternatives for public and private employees, including*
19 *but not limited to appropriate policy and legislative initiatives.*

20 *2. Assist state agencies in establishing telework policies.*

21 *3. Support the efforts of both public and private entities within the Commonwealth to enhance or*
22 *facilitate the deployment of, and access to competitively priced, advanced electronic communications*
23 *services (commonly known as broadband) and Internet access services of general application throughout*
24 *the Commonwealth.*

25 *4. Specifically work towards establishing affordable, accessible broadband services to unserved areas*
26 *of the Commonwealth and monitor advancements in communication that will facilitate this goal.*

27 *5. Advocate for, and facilitate the development and deployment of, applications, programs, and*
28 *services including, but not limited to telework, telemedicine, and e-learning that will bolster the usage of*
29 *and demand for broadband level telecommunications.*

30 *6. Serve as a broadband information and applications clearinghouse for the Commonwealth and a*
31 *coordination point for broadband-related services and programs in the Commonwealth.*

32 *7. Advise the Secretary on broadband adoption, deployment, and application issues.*

33 *8. Coordinate activities regarding telework with, and regularly report to, a panel consisting of the*
34 *Secretaries of Administration, Commerce and Trade, Finance, Technology, and Transportation. The*
35 *Secretary of Technology shall serve as chair of the panel. Additional members may be designated by the*
36 *Governor. Staff support for the panel shall be provided by the offices of the Secretaries of Technology*
37 *and Transportation and the Governor shall designate additional agencies to provide staff support as*
38 *necessary.*

39 *C. The Office shall not have the power to consolidate or otherwise have authority over advanced*
40 *communications projects being conducted by public or private bodies outside of the executive branch of*
41 *government.*

42 **2. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2018.**

ENROLLED

HB1017ER