High-speed internet is an essential infrastructure of the 21st century. All New Yorkers deserve reliable and affordable high-speed Internet. But unfortunately, many communities — particularly rural and upstate communities — are unserved or underserved.

THE PROBLEM

► Far too many New Yorkers lack access to high-speed broadband, experience inadequate speeds, or are forced to pay too much due to lack of competition.
► Particularly in rural areas where costs are higher, and in upstate cities, where residents tend to be low-income.
► We need better data to understand the problem.

WHAT THE BILL WOULD DO

Directs the Public Service Commission (PSC) to
- Collect better data to understand who has and does not have access to broadband.
- Determine the availability, quality, reliability, and affordability of that service.
- Investigate instances where local agreements to build out broadband and deliver a certain level of service have not been complied with.
- Evaluate the efficacy of relying solely on the market competition to fulfill the goal of universal, high-speed, affordable broadband.

STATUS OF BILL

6/18/2019 Passed Senate Energy & Technology Committee
6/20/2019 Senate Rules Committee

In the Assembly, the bill is in the Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee
BACKGROUND

Telecom competition was supposed to ensure that all customers would be guaranteed a choice of state-of-the-art services at competitive prices.

More than three decades of deregulation have left policymakers with few tools to require the universal deployment of affordable high-speed networks to all communities. The reliance on the private sector alone has resulted in a lack of good data and a lack of good policy levers to ensure universal high-quality service that meets the needs of all New Yorkers.

Data by the Federal Communication Commission FCC which New York State relies on is insufficient. The FCC’s current data collection process requires broadband providers to report deployment at the census block level. However, the FCC’s methodology considers an entire census block served if only one household has access to broadband. This flawed methodology can dramatically overstate broadband deployment, particularly in rural areas where homes and buildings are spread further apart within census blocks.

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Co-Sponsor A.6679/S.5696 to put New York on the path to a high-speed internet future for all.

For more information, contact CWA District 1 at 212-344-2515