

House Concurrent Resolution No. 111

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE POGUE.

6331H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission ruled to implement net neutrality
2 rules that took effect on June 12, 2015; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, net neutrality, also called Open Internet, is based on a principle that internet
5 networks should be equally available to all types of legal content generators; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, while FCC-approved net neutrality rules were in place since 2008, the FCC
8 was forced to propose new net neutrality rules when the United States Court of Appeals for the
9 District of Columbia in early 2014 vacated the earlier rules; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, the new rule reclassifies ISPs, including wireless data providers, as public
12 utilities, like phone companies, that are subject to a set of regulations regarding fair access to
13 services; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, the new net neutrality rules will allow big ISPs to charge online companies
16 for faster delivery of their content, which essentially will create a two-tiered system that allows
17 ISPs to offer premium access to content providers who could afford to pay for it; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, the new rules will create a "segregated" internet where smaller and newer
20 companies are unable to compete with established firms and their deep pockets; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, ISPs could end up having to pay more fees under the new rules and will
23 likely pass those additional charges on to consumers; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, imposing these new rules by reclassifying broadband under the same rules
26 the FCC uses for the telephone network gives the FCC authority to set prices on services and
27 collect fees; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, while the FCC officials have stated that they will not raise fees for ISPs,
30 there are no protections in the new rules that would prevent such a change in the future:

31 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
32 Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
33 concurring therein, hereby strongly opposes the FCC net neutrality rules, which could result in
34 higher costs and which could inhibit ISPs from introducing new services and limit innovations
35 in improving their networks and will likely be passed on to consumers; and

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37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
38 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for FCC
39 Chairman Tom Wheeler and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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