

# SENATE BILL NO. 981

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR HOSKINS.

4679S.01H

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary

## AN ACT

To repeal sections 620.2450 and 620.2451, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to grants to expand broadband internet access in unserved and underserved areas of the state.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Sections 620.2450 and 620.2451, RSMo, are  
2 repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be  
3 known as sections 620.2450 and 620.2451, to read as follows:

620.2450. 1. A grant program is hereby established  
2 under sections 620.2450 to 620.2458 to award grants to  
3 applicants who seek to expand access to broadband internet  
4 service in unserved and underserved areas of the state. The  
5 department of economic development shall administer and act  
6 as the fiscal agent for the grant program and shall be  
7 responsible for receiving and reviewing grant applications  
8 and awarding grants under sections 620.2450 to 620.2458.  
9 Funding for the grant program established under this section  
10 shall be subject to appropriation by the general assembly.

11 2. As used in sections 620.2450 to 620.2458, the  
12 following terms shall mean:

13 (1) **"Project", the acquisition and installation of**  
14 **retail broadband internet service in unserved and**  
15 **underserved areas of the state;**

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

16           (2) "Underserved area", a project area without access  
17 to wireline or fixed wireless broadband internet service of  
18 speeds of [at least twenty-five] **the higher of:**

19           (a) **One hundred** megabits per-second download and  
20 [three] **twenty** megabits per-second upload; **or**

21           (b) **The minimum speed established by the Federal**  
22 **Communications Commission as authorized in 7 U.S.C.**  
23 **950bb(e) (2) .**

24           [(2)] (3) "Unserved area", a project area without  
25 access to wireline or fixed wireless broadband internet  
26 service of speeds of at least [ten] **twenty-five** megabits per-  
27 second download and [one] **three** megabit per-second upload.

          620.2451. 1. Grants awarded under sections 620.2450  
2 to 620.2458 shall fund the acquisition and installation of  
3 retail broadband internet service [at], **prioritizing**  
4 **projects providing** speeds of [at least twenty-five] **the**  
5 **higher of:**

6           (1) **One hundred** megabits per-second download and  
7 [three] **twenty** megabits per-second upload[, but] that is  
8 scalable to higher speeds; **or**

9           (2) **The minimum acceptable speed established by the**  
10 **Federal Communications Commission as authorized in 7 U.S.C.**  
11 **950bb(e) (2) .**

12           2. The department shall maintain a record of all  
13 federal grants awarded to entities for the purposes of  
14 providing, maintaining, and expanding rural broadband in the  
15 state of Missouri. In cases in which funds have been  
16 awarded by a federal agency but later retained, withheld, or  
17 otherwise not distributed to the original grant recipient  
18 due to failure to meet performance standards or other  
19 criteria, the department shall seek to have the funds

20 awarded to another eligible, qualified Missouri broadband  
21 provider.

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