Introducing:

**HB 21-1289**

*House Sponsorship*

Kennedy and Baisley, Titone

*Senate Sponsorship*

Bridges,

**Sections 1 and 2 of the bill extend the grant award distribution**
and reporting dates for the connecting Colorado students grant program.

Section 4 creates the Colorado broadband office (broadband office) in the office of information technology (office) as a type 1 entity. Section 4 also creates the digital inclusion grant program fund and directs the state treasurer to transfer $35 million from the general fund to the fund for use by the broadband office to implement the digital inclusion grant program to award grant money to proposed broadband deployment projects throughout the state. Grant recipients other than Indian tribe or nation recipients are prohibited from using the grant money for last-mile broadband deployment. Section 3 requires the chief information officer in the office to appoint a director of the broadband office.

Section 5 defines "community anchor institution", "critically unserved", and "income-qualified plan" in relation to grants awarded by the broadband deployment board (board) for proposed broadband deployment projects throughout the state.

Section 6 creates the broadband stimulus grant program (grant program) and requires the board to implement the grant program by awarding grant money from the broadband stimulus account created in the broadband administrative fund. The state treasurer is directed to transfer $35 million from the general fund to the account for this grant program. The board is encouraged to award money under the grant program to applicants that previously applied for broadband deployment grants from the board but were denied due to insufficient funding. An applicant seeking money under the grant program must submit an income-qualified plan to the board.

Section 7 updates the legislative declaration related to the division of local government in the department of local affairs (division) to include language indicating the importance of broadband deployment, and section 8 defines terms related to the division's work in deploying broadband.

Section 9 requires the division to submit a copy of any application it receives for broadband deployment grant money to the board for the board to review and provide a recommendation regarding the application within 30 days after the division sends the copy to the board.

Section 9 also creates the interconnectivity grant program and requires the division to implement the grant program by awarding grant money for proposed projects that seek to achieve regional broadband deployment and provide interconnection between communities. Projects awarded money under this grant program, except for projects awarded to Indian tribes or nations, cannot use the money awarded for last-mile broadband deployment. To finance this grant program, section 9 also creates the interconnectivity grant program fund into which the state treasurer is directed to transfer $5 million from the general fund.

Section 10 appropriates:
- $35 million from the digital inclusion grant program fund
to the office of information technology for use by the Colorado broadband office to implement the digital inclusion grant program;

- $35 million from the broadband stimulus account in the broadband administrative fund to the department of regulatory agencies for use by the board to implement the broadband stimulus grant program; and

- $5 million from the interconnectivity grant program fund to the department of local affairs for use by the division of local government to implement the interconnectivity grant program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-103-103, amend (5) as follows:

22-103-103. Connecting Colorado students grant program - created - application - awards. (5) By February 1, 2021, the department shall distribute as grants to local education providers the entire amount appropriated to the fund for the 2020-21 budget year, less the amount allowed for expenses.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-103-104, amend (1) introductory portion as follows:

22-103-104. Report. (1) On or before July 15, 2021, the department shall submit a report to the state board of education, governor, and education committees of the senate and house of representatives or any successor committees, concerning implementation of the program. After the initial report, the department shall submit a report to the same parties within six months after the end of a budget year in which the department awards one or more grants. At a minimum, the report must describe:

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-37.5-106, amend
(1)(u) and add (1)(v) as follows:

24-37.5-106. Chief information officer - duties and responsibilities - broadband inventory fund created. (1) The chief information officer shall:
   (u) Assist the joint technology committee as necessary to facilitate the committee's oversight of the office; and
   (v) Appoint a director of the Colorado broadband office created in section 24-37.5-903 (1).

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add part 9 to article 37.5 of title 24 as follows:

PART 9

COLORADO BROADBAND OFFICE

24-37.5-901. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly hereby finds and determines that:
   (a) The development of fast, affordable, and accessible broadband internet service throughout the state will:
      (I) Drive job creation;
      (II) Promote innovation;
      (III) Improve the economic vitality of various industries throughout the state and the state as a whole; and
      (IV) Expand markets for Colorado businesses;
   (b) Improved broadband access will help serve the ongoing and growing needs of Colorado's education, health-care, and public safety systems; industries; businesses; governmental operations; and citizens; and
   (c) Communities in unserved areas of the state need access to broadband to help overcome economic, health-care,
EDUCATION, AND GOVERNMENT-ACCESS INEQUITIES ARISING FROM THEIR
DIMINISHED ABILITY TO ACCESS BROADBAND.

(2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO
CREATE THE COLORADO BROADBAND OFFICE TO SERVE AS A CENTRAL
GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY TO PLAN AND COORDINATE WITH OTHER STATE,
PUBLIC, AND PRIVATE ENTITIES AND CITIZENS THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO
DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT STATEWIDE BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT AND
ACCESS STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS THAT SEEK TO ADVANCE THE GOALS
LISTED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

24-37.5-902. Definitions. As used in this Part 9, unless the
context otherwise requires:

(1) "BROADBAND" has the meaning set forth in section
40-15-102 (3.3).

(2) "COLORADO BROADBAND OFFICE" or "BROADBAND OFFICE"
means the Colorado broadband office created in section
24-37.5-903 (1).

(3) "COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTION" has the meaning set
forth in section 40-15-102 (5.2).

(4) "DEVICE" means an electronic device that enables
access to or use of the internet.

(5) "DIGITAL INCLUSION GRANT PROGRAM" or "GRANT PROGRAM"
means the digital inclusion grant program created in section
24-37.5-904 (1).

(6) "DIGITAL INCLUSION GRANT PROGRAM FUND" or "FUND"
means the fund created in section 24-37.5-904 (2) for use by the
broadband office for implementing the grant program.

(7) "DIGITAL LITERACY" means the ability to use
TECHNOLOGIES TO FIND, EVALUATE, ANALYZE, CREATE, AND COMMUNICATE INFORMATION.

(8) "LAST-MILE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE" MEANS BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE THAT DELIVERS AN INTERNET CONNECTION TO AN END USER.

(9) "LOCAL GOVERNMENT" MEANS A STATUTORY OR HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY, COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, OR METROPOLITAN DISTRICT THAT LIES WHOLLY WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED PART OF A COUNTY.

(10) "METROPOLITAN DISTRICT" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 32-1-103 (10).

(11) "TELEHEALTH" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 10-16-123 (4)(e).

(12) "UNSERVED AREA" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 40-15-102 (32).

24-37.5-903. Colorado broadband office - creation - responsibilities - gifts, grants, or donations. (1) The Colorado broadband office is hereby created in the office. The Colorado broadband office shall exercise its powers and perform its duties and functions under the office as if the Colorado broadband office were transferred to the office by a TYPE 1 transfer as defined in section 24-1-105.

(2) (a) The chief information officer shall appoint the director of the broadband office. The director may employ staff as necessary to carry out the powers and duties of the broadband office, subject to the availability of appropriations to the office for use by the broadband office.
(b) **The Broadband Office shall provide technical assistance to applicants seeking grant awards from the Grant Program or other state or federal grant opportunities offered for deploying broadband service.**

(c) In carrying out its powers and duties, the Broadband Office may collaborate with other state agencies, local governments, broadband experts, and other interested parties.

(3) The Broadband Office shall:

(a) Encourage, foster, develop, and strive to improve the availability of affordable, quality broadband within the state;

(b) Serve as the central broadband policy coordination body for the state;

(c) Coordinate with other state agencies, local governments, the federal government, Indian tribes and nations, other relevant broadband partners, and consumers throughout the state to develop strategies and plans for promoting the deployment of broadband infrastructure and greater broadband access;

(d) Review existing state broadband initiatives, policies, and public and private investments;

(e) Develop and implement a statewide plan to encourage cost-effective broadband access and increased broadband usage, particularly in rural unserved areas and other unserved areas of the state. The Broadband Office shall submit the statewide plan, and any updated versions of the statewide plan, to the Chief Information Officer, the Governor, and the Joint Technology Committee and shall post the statewide plan on its
PUBLIC WEBSITE. IN DEVELOPING A STATEWIDE PLAN AND ANY OTHER
STRATEGIES FOR BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT, THE BROADBAND OFFICE
SHALL CONSIDER:

(I) PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN COMMUNITIES; INDIAN TRIBES AND
NATIONS; NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS; LOCAL GOVERNMENTS; ELECTRIC
UTILITIES AS DEFINED IN SECTION 40-2-202 (1), COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATIONS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 40-9.5-102, MUNICIPALLY OWNED
UTILITIES, AND NONPROFIT GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION ELECTRIC
CORPORATIONS OR ASSOCIATIONS; RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
PROVIDERS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 40-15-102 (24.5); AND PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE ENTITIES;

(II) FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES THAT ALLOW FOR THE
COORDINATION OF PUBLIC FUNDING SOURCES, INCLUDING LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS, STATE GOVERNMENT, AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT,
AND PRIVATE FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEPLOYING
BROADBAND INTO RURAL UNSERVED AREAS AND OTHER UNSERVED AREAS
OF THE STATE;

(III) BARRIERS TO THE DEPLOYMENT, ADOPTION, AND UTILIZATION
OF BROADBAND, INCLUDING A CONSIDERATION OF THE AFFORDABILITY OF
BROADBAND; AND

(IV) STATEWIDE BROADBAND GOALS AND WHETHER STATUTORY
DEFINITIONS FOR BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AREAS NEED TO BE UPDATED
IN RESPONSE TO ADVANCES MADE IN BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY.

(f) COLLECT BROADBAND DATA TO CREATE AND UPDATE MAPS
THAT MEASURE THE PROGRESS OF BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT IN THE
STATE;

(g) ENCOURAGE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO INCREASE
DEPLOYMENT OF BROADBAND THROUGHOUT THE STATE; AND

(h) In furtherance of the purposes set forth in this Part 9, seek or apply for, accept, and expend:

(I) Gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources; and

(II) Money from the federal government for broadband deployment. The broadband office may seek and apply for all federal funds for which the broadband office is eligible to receive.

(4) In addition to the powers and functions set forth in subsection (3) of this section, the broadband office shall implement the digital inclusion grant program.

24-37.5-904. Digital inclusion grant program - creation - award criteria - digital inclusion grant program fund - reporting.

(1) (a) The digital inclusion grant program is created for the purpose of advancing the state's digital inclusion priorities, which priorities include:

(I) Increasing broadband usage and access to broadband throughout the state;

(II) Increasing broadband speeds throughout the state;

(III) Improving the reliability of broadband throughout the state;

(IV) Enhancing digital literacy; and

(V) Making access to broadband more affordable.

(b) The Colorado broadband office shall implement the grant program. During the 2020-21 state fiscal year, the broadband office shall award:
(I) **Grants totaling up to twenty million dollars to one or more Indian tribes or nations** for the purpose of deploying additional infrastructure on tribal lands and providing devices to Indian tribes or nations; and

(II) **Grants totaling up to fifteen million dollars to one or more providers of telehealth services.**

(c) In reviewing grant applications and awarding grants pursuant to this section, the broadband office is encouraged to consult with the Colorado Office of Economic Development created in Section 24-48.5-101 (1), the Department of Local Affairs, the Department of Regulatory Agencies, the Department of Transportation, and any other agencies, organizations, or individuals with broadband expertise.

(d) A grant award recipient other than an Indian tribe or nation shall not use the grant money for the deployment of last-mile broadband infrastructure.

(2) **The digital inclusion grant program fund** is hereby created in the state treasury. **Within three days after the effective date of this section,** the state treasurer shall transfer thirty-five million dollars from the general fund to the fund for use by the broadband office for the purpose of reviewing and awarding grants under the grant program. The money in the fund is subject to appropriation by the general assembly.

(3)(a) **On or before January 1, 2022,** and notwithstanding Section 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), the Colorado broadband office shall submit a written report to the governor and the general
ASSEMBLY’S JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND JOINT TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE REGARDING THE BROADBAND OFFICE’S IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE GRANT PROGRAM. AFTER SUBMITTING THE INITIAL REPORT, THE
BROADBAND OFFICE SHALL SUBMIT SUBSEQUENT REPORTS REGARDING THE
GRANT PROGRAM TO THE SAME PARTIES WITHIN SIX MONTHS AFTER THE
END OF ANY STATE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE BROADBAND OFFICE
AWARDS ONE OR MORE GRANTS FROM THE FUND.

(b) REPORTS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3) MUST INCLUDE:

(I) FOR EACH PROJECT AWARDED GRANT MONEY UNDER THE
GRANT PROGRAM:

(A) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT;

(B) A SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS MADE ON THE PROJECT;

(C) THE ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE FOR THE PROJECT OR, IF
ALREADY COMPLETED, THE DATE OF COMPLETION;

(D) A MAP OF THE AREA TO BE SERVED OR ALREADY SERVED BY
THE PROJECT;

(E) THE PERCENTAGE OF CUSTOMERS WHO ACTIVATED
BROADBAND THROUGH THE BROADBAND NETWORK PROVIDED BY THE
PROJECT AFTER A BROADBAND CONNECTION WAS CREATED UNDER THE
PROJECT TO THEIR HOME OR ENTITY AND THE MEASURABLE SPEEDS MADE
AVAILABLE TO THEM;

(F) THE TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYED OR USED FOR
BROADBAND PROVIDED THROUGH THE PROJECT; AND

(G) THE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS, COMMUNITY ANCHOR
INSTITUTIONS, MUNICIPALITIES, AND COUNTIES SERVED BY THE PROJECT;

(II) THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS TO THE GRANT PROGRAM, THE
AMOUNTS OF GRANT MONEY REQUESTED BY EACH APPLICANT, THE
NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THE GRANT PROGRAM, AND THE
AMOUNTS OF GRANT MONEY AWARDED TO EACH APPLICANT UNDER THE
GRANT PROGRAM; AND

(III) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND VERSUS
THE AMOUNT OF MONEY OBLIGATED BUT NOT YET EXPENDED FROM THE
FUND.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-15-102, add (5.2),
(5.7), (9.2), and (24.7) as follows:

40-15-102. Definitions. As used in this article 15, unless the
context otherwise requires:

(5.2) "COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTION" MEANS A:

(a) SCHOOL;

(b) LIBRARY;

(c) HOSPITAL OR OTHER HEALTH-CARE FACILITY LICENSED OR
CERTIFIED PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-1.5-103;

(d) LAW ENFORCEMENT, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER,
OR OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY; OR

(e) COMMUNITY SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, AGENCY, OR LOCAL
GOVERNMENT FACILITY THAT PROVIDES OUTREACH, ACCESS, EQUIPMENT,
OR SUPPORT SERVICES TO FACILITATE GREATER USE OF BROADBAND
THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY GREATER USE BY
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, SUCH AS
LOW-INCOME, UNEMPLOYED, AND SENIOR POPULATIONS.

(5.7) "CRITICALLY UNSERVED", WHEN USED TO DESCRIBE A
HOUSEHOLD OR AREA, MEANS A HOUSEHOLD OR AREA THAT LACKS ACCESS
TO AT LEAST ONE NONSATELLITE PROVIDER OF BROADBAND INTERNET
SERVICE DELIVERED AT MEASURABLE SPEEDS OF EITHER AT LEAST TEN
MEGABITS PER SECOND DOWNSTREAM AND ONE MEGABIT PER SECOND
UPSTREAM OR AT MEASURABLE SPEEDS AT LEAST EQUAL TO ONE-HALF OF
THE MINIMUM MEASURABLE SPEEDS THAT QUALIFY AS BROADBAND UNDER
THE FCC DEFINITION AND ROUNDED UP TO THE NEAREST WHOLE NUMBER,
WHICHER IS FASTER.

(9.2) "INCOME-QUALIFIED PLAN" MEANS A PLAN THAT AN
APPLICANT SEEKING A BROADBAND STIMULUS GRANT PURSUANT TO
SECTION 40-15-509.5 (8.7) INCLUDES IN THE APPLICATION TO
DEMONSTRATE THAT, AS PART OF THE APPLICANT'S PROPOSED PROJECT,
THE APPLICANT WOULD PROVIDE BROADBAND TO INCOME-QUALIFIED
CUSTOMERS IN THE PROPOSED SERVICE AREA AT A REDUCED COST.

(24.7) "SCHOOL" MEANS A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
EDUCATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-1-108 (7)(g)(II), A SCHOOL
DISTRICT CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 30 OF TITLE 22, A CHARTER
SCHOOL AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22,
THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE ESTABLISHED IN SECTION
22-30.5-503, AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO
PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22, A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES
CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 22, AN ADULT EDUCATION
PROVIDER AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-10-103 (1.5) BUT EXCLUDING A
PRIVATE PROVIDER, OR AN INDIAN TRIBE OR NATION THAT OPERATES A
PUBLIC SCHOOL IN COLORADO.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-15-509.5, add
(4)(c) and (8.7) as follows:

40-15-509.5. Broadband service - report - broadband
deployment board - broadband administrative fund - creation -
The broadband stimulus account, referred to in this subsection (4)(c) as the "account", is hereby created in the fund. Within three days after the effective date of this subsection (4)(c), the state treasurer shall transfer thirty-five million dollars from the general fund to the account. The money in the account is subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly for use by the board for the purpose of reviewing and awarding grants under the broadband stimulus grant program created in subsection (8.7) of this section. All interest earned from investment of money in the account is credited to the account. All money not expended from the account at the end of a fiscal year remains in the account and does not revert to the general fund or any other fund.

(II) This subsection (4)(c) is repealed, effective September 1, 2023.

(8.7) (a) (I) The broadband stimulus grant program is hereby created. As part of the grant program, the board, in any grant funding cycle in 2021 that occurs after the effective date of this subsection (8.7):

(A) Is encouraged to award grant money to applicants that applied for grants under subsection (8) of this section in the previous five years, met all of the award criteria set forth in subsection (8) of this section but were denied grants due to the insufficiency of grant money available at the time of application, and, as determined by the board, continue to meet all of the award criteria set forth in subsection (8) of this
(B) MAY ALSO AWARD GRANT MONEY TO NEW GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED.

(II) AN APPLICANT SEEKING A BROADBAND STIMULUS GRANT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (8.7) MUST MEET ALL OF THE GRANT AWARD CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (8) OF THIS SECTION AND THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION (8.7).

(b) (I) THE BOARD SHALL AWARD GRANTS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (8.7) WITH MONEY IN THE BROADBAND STIMULUS ACCOUNT CREATED IN SUBSECTION (4)(c) OF THIS SECTION UNTIL THE MONEY IN THE ACCOUNT IS FULLY EXPENDED.

(II) AN APPLICANT SEEKING GRANT MONEY UNDER THE BROADBAND STIMULUS GRANT PROGRAM MUST SUPPLEMENT A PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED APPLICATION WITH OR INCLUDE WITH A NEW APPLICATION:

(A) INFORMATION DEMONSTRATING THAT ANY EASEMENTS NEEDED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL BE IN PLACE AND THAT CONSTRUCTION MAY COMMENCE UPON THE BOARD’S APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION; AND

(B) AN INCOME-QUALIFIED PLAN.

(III) IN AWARDING GRANTS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (8.7), THE BOARD IS ENCOURAGED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO PROPOSED PROJECTS THAT WILL SERVE CRITICALLY UNSERVED AREAS OF THE STATE.

(c) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2022, THE BOARD SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY’S JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND JOINT TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REGARDING THE BOARD’S IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBSECTION (8.7). AFTER THE INITIAL
REPORT AND NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE BOARD
SHALL SUBMIT SUBSEQUENT REPORTS TO THE SAME PARTIES WITHIN SIX
MONTHS AFTER THE END OF ANY STATE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE BOARD
AWARDS ONE OR MORE GRANTS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (8.7).

(d) REPORTS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (8.7)(c) OF
THIS SECTION MUST INCLUDE:

(I) FOR EACH PROJECT AWARDED GRANT MONEY UNDER THE
BROADBAND STIMULUS GRANT PROGRAM:

(A) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF
THE USE OF THE GRANT MONEY IN PROVIDING BROADBAND;

(B) A SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS MADE ON THE PROJECT;

(C) THE ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE FOR THE PROJECT OR, IF
ALREADY COMPLETED, THE DATE OF COMPLETION;

(D) A MAP OF THE AREAS TO BE SERVED OR ALREADY SERVED BY
THE PROJECT;

(E) THE PERCENTAGE OF CUSTOMERS WHO ACTIVATED
BROADBAND THROUGH THE BROADBAND NETWORK PROVIDED BY THE
PROJECT AFTER A BROADBAND CONNECTION WAS CREATED UNDER THE
PROJECT TO THEIR HOME OR ENTITY AND THE MEASURABLE SPEEDS MADE
AVAILABLE TO THEM;

(F) THE TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYED OR USED FOR
BROADBAND PROVIDED THROUGH THE PROJECT; AND

(G) THE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS, COMMUNITY ANCHOR
INSTITUTIONS, MUNICIPALITIES, AND COUNTIES SERVED BY THE PROJECT.

(II) THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS TO THE BROADBAND STIMULUS
GRANT PROGRAM, THE AMOUNTS OF GRANT MONEY REQUESTED BY EACH
APPLICANT, THE NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THE BROADBAND
STIMULUS GRANT PROGRAM, AND THE AMOUNTS OF GRANT MONEY
AWARDED TO EACH APPLICANT UNDER THE BROADBAND STIMULUS GRANT
PROGRAM; AND

(III) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE BROADBAND
STIMULUS ACCOUNT VERSUS THE AMOUNT OF MONEY OBLIGATED BUT NOT
YET EXPENDED FROM THE BROADBAND STIMULUS ACCOUNT.

(e) THIS SUBSECTION (8.7) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,
2023.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-32-101, add (2)
as follows:

24-32-101. Legislative declaration. (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

(a) THE PROVISION OF HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND PLAYS A CRITICAL
ROLE IN ENHANCING LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS;

(b) REGIONAL, MULTIJURISDICTIONAL, AND COORDINATED
APPROACHES TO BROADBAND PLANNING ARE CRITICAL TO ACHIEVING THE
EFFICIENT DEPLOYMENT OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE AND
TECHNOLOGY; AND

(c) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS HELP LEVERAGE RESOURCES OF
BOTH PRIVATE BROADBAND PROVIDERS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO
ACHIEVE STATEWIDE BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT.

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 24-32-102 as
follows:

24-32-102. Definitions. As used in this part 1, unless the context
otherwise requires:

(1) "BROADBAND" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION
40-15-102 (3.3).

(2) "BROADBAND FACILITY" MEANS ANY INFRASTRUCTURE USED TO DELIVER BROADBAND OR PROVIDE BROADBAND.

(3) "COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTION" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 40-15-102 (5.2).

(4) "DIVISION" MEANS THE DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CREATED IN SECTION 24-32-103.

(5) "INTERCONNECTIVITY GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 24-32-104 (4)(a).

(6) "INTERCONNECTIVITY GRANT PROGRAM FUND" MEANS THE FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-32-104 (4)(c).

(7) "LAST-MILE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE" MEANS BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE THAT DELIVERS AN INTERNET CONNECTION TO AN END USER.

(8) (a) "LOCAL GOVERNMENT" MEANS A STATUTORY OR HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY, COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, OR METROPOLITAN DISTRICT THAT LIES WHOLLY WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED PART OF A COUNTY.

(b) "Local government" includes all municipal corporations, quasi municipalities, counties, and local improvement and service districts of this state.

(9) "METROPOLITAN DISTRICT" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 32-1-103 (10).

SECTION 9. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-32-104, add (1)(n) and (4) as follows:

24-32-104. Functions of the division - definition - interconnectivity grant program - interconnectivity grant program
fund-reporting. (1) The division shall perform the following functions:

   (n) Submit to the Broadband Deployment Board created in Section 40-15-509.5 (5)(a) for the Board's review and recommendations a copy of each application that the Division receives in which an applicant seeks grant money for broadband planning or infrastructure, which grant the Division awards from the Interconnectivity Grant Program Fund or the Local Government Mineral Impact Fund created in Section 34-63-102 (5)(a)(I). The Broadband Deployment Board shall review each application submitted and provide the Division its recommendations regarding the application as soon as practicable but no later than thirty days after the Division has furnished a copy of the application to the Board.

   (4) (a) As part of the Division's work to improve broadband service to its local government constituents, the Division shall implement the Interconnectivity Grant Program, which is hereby created, to award grant money to local governments for proposed projects that:

      (I) Engage in regional planning among multiple local governments to:

         (A) Identify regional broadband infrastructure needs;

         (B) Determine optimal regional configurations of broadband infrastructure; and

         (C) Identify potential public-private partnerships to achieve optimal regional broadband deployment; or

      (II) Provide or enhance the network connection between communities, including the interconnection between community
ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS.

(b) A RECIPIENT OF MONEY UNDER THE GRANT PROGRAM:

(I) SHALL NOT USE THE MONEY TO DEPLOY LAST-MILE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE; EXCEPT THAT AN INDIAN TRIBE OR NATION AWARDED GRANT MONEY MAY USE THE GRANT MONEY TO DEPLOY LAST-MILE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE; AND

(II) IS ENCOURAGED TO CONTRACT WITH THE OWNER OF:

(A) ANY EXISTING BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED IN THE AREA TO BE SERVED BY THE RECIPIENT'S PROPOSED PROJECT TO LEASE ANY EXCESS CAPACITY OR OBTAIN A RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM THE OWNER IN ORDER TO ATTACH THE RECIPIENT'S OWN BROADBAND FACILITIES IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY; OR

(B) ANY EXISTING ELECTRIC EASEMENT, AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN SECTION 40-15-601 (5), LOCATED IN THE AREA TO BE SERVED BY THE RECIPIENT'S PROPOSED PROJECT TO LEASE ANY EXCESS CAPACITY OR INSTALL A BROADBAND FACILITY IN THE ELECTRIC EASEMENT PURSUANT TO PART 6 OF ARTICLE 15 OF TITLE 40.

(c) THE INTERCONNECTIVITY GRANT PROGRAM FUND IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY. WITHIN THREE DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (4), THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER FIVE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FUND FOR USE BY THE DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING AND AWARDING GRANTS UNDER THE GRANT PROGRAM. THE MONEY IN THE FUND IS SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(d) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2022, AND, NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), WITHIN SIX MONTHS AFTER A STATE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE DIVISION AWARDS ONE OR MORE GRANTS FOR
BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT, WHETHER OR NOT AWARDED UNDER THE
GRANT PROGRAM, THE DIVISION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE
GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY’S JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE
AND JOINT TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REGARDING GRANTS AWARDED IN
THE MOST RECENT STATE FISCAL YEAR. REPORTS SUBMITTED UNDER THIS
SUBSECTION (4)(d) MUST INCLUDE:

(I) FOR EACH PROJECT AWARDED GRANT MONEY:
(A) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF
THE USE OF THE GRANT MONEY IN PROVIDING BROADBAND;
(B) A SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS MADE ON THE PROJECT;
(C) THE ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE FOR THE PROJECT OR, IF
ALREADY COMPLETED, THE DATE OF COMPLETION;
(D) A MAP OF THE AREAS TO BE SERVED OR ALREADY SERVED BY
THE PROJECT; AND
(E) THE TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYED OR USED FOR
BROADBAND PROVIDED THROUGH THE PROJECT;

(II) THE NUMBER OF GRANT APPLICANTS, THE AMOUNTS OF GRANT
MONEY REQUESTED BY EACH APPLICANT, THE NUMBER OF GRANTS
AWARDED, AND THE AMOUNTS OF GRANT MONEY AWARDED TO EACH
APPLICANT THAT RECEIVES AN AWARD; AND

(III) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY EXPENDED FOR GRANT AWARDS
VERSUS THE AMOUNT OF MONEY OBLIGATED BUT NOT YET EXPENDED FOR
GRANT AWARDS.

SECTION 10. Appropriations. (1) For the 2020-21 state fiscal
year, $35,000,000 is appropriated to the office of information technology
for use by the Colorado broadband office. This appropriation is from the
digital inclusion grant program fund created in section 24-37.5-904 (2),
C.R.S. The Colorado broadband office may use this appropriation to implement the digital inclusion grant program created in section 24-37.5-904 (1)(a), C.R.S. Any money appropriated in this subsection (1) not expended prior to July 1, 2021, is further appropriated to the office of information technology for the 2021-22 state fiscal year for the same purpose.

(2) For the 2020-21 state fiscal year, $35,000,000 is appropriated to the department of regulatory agencies for use by the broadband deployment board. This appropriation is from the broadband stimulus account in the broadband administrative fund created in section 40-15-509.5 (4), C.R.S. The broadband deployment board may use this appropriation to implement the broadband stimulus grant program created in section 40-15-509.5 (8.7), C.R.S. Any money appropriated in this subsection (2) not expended prior to July 1, 2021, is further appropriated to the department for the 2021-22 state fiscal year for the same purpose.

(3) For the 2020-21 state fiscal year, $5,000,000 is appropriated to the department of local affairs for use by the division of local government. This appropriation is from the interconnectivity grant program fund created in section 24-32-104 (4)(c), C.R.S. The division of local government may use this appropriation to implement the interconnectivity grant program created in section 24-32-104 (4)(a), C.R.S. Any money appropriated in this subsection (3) not expended prior to July 1, 2021, is further appropriated to the department of local affairs for use by the division of local government for the 2021-22 state fiscal year for the same purpose.

SECTION 11. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.