

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2521

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON (23).

5116H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 620.2455, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to broadband development grants.

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

Section A. Section 620.2455, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 620.2455, to read as follows:

620.2455. 1. The department of economic development shall give first priority to grant applications that serve unserved areas.

2. The department of economic development shall give secondary priority to grant applications that demonstrate the ability to receive matching funds that serve unserved areas, whether such matching funds are government funds or other funds.

3. The department shall give third priority to grant applications that serve underserved areas.

4. The department of economic development shall use a quantitative weighing scheme or scoring system including, at a minimum, the following elements to rank the applications:

(1) Financial, technical, and legal capability of the applicant to deploy and operate broadband internet service;

(2) The number of locations served in the most cost-efficient manner possible considering the project area density;

(3) Available minimum broadband speeds;

(4) Ability of the infrastructure to be scalable to higher broadband internet speeds;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 (5) Commitment of the applicant to fund at least fifty percent of the project from
18 private sources;

19 (6) Length of time the provider has been operating broadband internet services in the
20 state;

21 (7) The offering of new or substantially upgraded broadband internet service to
22 important community institutions including, but not limited to, libraries, educational
23 institutions, public safety facilities, and health care facilities;

24 (8) The offering of service to economically distressed areas of the state, as measured
25 by indices of unemployment, poverty, or population loss that are significantly greater than the
26 statewide average;

27 (9) The ability to provide technical support and training to residents, businesses, and
28 institutions in the community of the proposed project to utilize broadband internet service;

29 (10) Plans to actively promote the adoption of the newly available broadband internet
30 service in the community; and

31 (11) Strong support for the proposed project from citizens, businesses, and
32 institutions in the community.

33 **5. Forty percent of all grants awarded under sections 620.2450 to 620.2458 shall**
34 **be awarded to unserved and underserved projects in urban areas.**

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