

1 **SECTION 2.(b)** To be eligible for the Program, an applicant shall demonstrate, at
2 least annually, income qualifications in a manner satisfactory to the Department. Additionally,
3 Program recipients shall provide information to the Department sufficient to enable the
4 Department to provide funds directly to the broadband service provider on behalf of the Program
5 recipient. Program recipients shall be responsible for all charges not covered by Program funds
6 and for all other obligations under any contract with a broadband service provider. The
7 Department may terminate a Program recipient's eligibility for Program funds upon notification
8 by the broadband service provider that the Program recipient's account is more than 45 days past
9 due.

10 **SECTION 2.(c)** Beginning October 1, 2021, the Department of Commerce shall
11 submit a quarterly report on the Broadband Assistance Program established in this act to the Joint
12 Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the
13 Fiscal Research Division. The report shall contain information detailing the following:

- 14 (1) The number of families applying for the program.
- 15 (2) The number of families that are determined to be eligible after applying.
- 16 (3) The number of families participating in the program and the duration.
- 17 (4) Any outreach activities undertaken by the Department or by any partner State
18 agencies.
- 19 (5) Any legislative recommendations relating to the Program.

20 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
21 Commerce the sum of two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) in nonrecurring funds
22 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to be used for the North Carolina Broadband Assistance Program
23 described in this act.

24 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.