

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE  
5 BILL NO. 848

By: Paxton of the Senate

and

6 Caldwell (Trey) of the  
7 House

8  
9 [ Oklahoma Broadband Expansion Act - Oklahoma  
10 Broadband Office - requirements - assistance  
11 request - extension -  
12 emergency ]

13  
14 ~~BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:~~

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 5, Chapter 229, O.S.L.  
16 2022 (74 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 9204), is amended to read as  
17 follows:

18 Section 9204. A. There is hereby created until June 30, 2028,  
19 the Oklahoma Broadband Office, to serve as the state's sole  
20 administrator of the functions, powers, and duties assigned to the  
21 Office in this act or under law. Effective June 30, 2028, the  
22 Office shall terminate and all personnel positions shall be  
23 abolished. The Office shall utilize the year prior to the  
24 termination date for the purpose of ceasing the Office's affairs.

1 B. The Office shall receive administrative assistance from the  
2 Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES), which shall  
3 provide, through existing OMES resources, administrative assistance  
4 upon request in writing or electronic correspondence from the  
5 Office's Executive Director, ~~within a reasonable time to allow the~~  
6 ~~performance of the Office's duties or.~~ OMES shall provide  
7 assistance in the manner requested within thirty (30) days of  
8 determination by the Agency that the request is able to be  
9 fulfilled. If for any reason the request cannot be fulfilled within  
10 thirty (30) days, the Office and OMES shall enter into a written  
11 agreement expressing an agreed upon timeline for fulfilling the  
12 needs of the Office. In the event that the request cannot be  
13 fulfilled, OMES shall respond in writing within ten (10) days of the  
14 request providing ~~reasons why the request cannot be fulfilled the~~  
15 reasoning for denial. If the request cannot be fulfilled utilizing  
16 existing resources, OMES may charge the Office for the actual cost  
17 to fulfill the request.

18 C. The Office shall be governed by the Broadband Governing  
19 Board, created pursuant to Section 3 of this act.

20 D. The Office shall be advised by the Broadband Expansion  
21 Council, created pursuant to Section 4 of this act.

22 E. The Office shall have an Executive Director who shall  
23 oversee the operations of the Office including, but not limited to:  
24

1 1. Overseeing the creation, maintenance, and completion of the  
2 Statewide Broadband Plan;

3 2. Communicating the state's progress in achieving the goals  
4 and implementation of the Statewide Broadband Plan;

5 3. The creation, housing, and updating of a statewide broadband  
6 services map;

7 4. Overseeing of grant applications and awards for connectivity  
8 and affordability projects;

9 5. Making recommendations to the Board regarding procedural and  
10 administrative rules for the Office; and

11 6. Employment and management of Office staff subject to the  
12 limitations and requirements of this act and subject to the  
13 limitations and requirements of the Broadband Governing Board.

14 F. The Executive Director shall regularly report to the Council  
15 and the Board and shall submit an annual report to the Office of the  
16 Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Office of  
17 the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate.

18 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
19 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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23 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT MODERNIZATION AND  
24 TECHNOLOGY, dated 04/11/2023 - DO PASS, As Amended.