

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2665

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a program to make grants to States for the deployment of broadband service in underserved areas by small business broadband providers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 19, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a program to make grants to States for the deployment of broadband service in underserved areas by small business broadband providers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Local Telecom Expan-
5 sion Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS BROADBAND PROVIDER GRANT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Commission shall estab-
4 lish a program to make grants on a competitive basis to
5 States for the deployment of broadband service in under-
6 served areas by small business broadband providers.

7 (b) **ELIGIBILITY OF STATES.**—The Commission may
8 only award a grant under this section to a State that—

9 (1) meets such eligibility criteria as the Com-
10 mission may establish; and

11 (2) submits an application at such time, in such
12 form, and with such information and assurances as
13 the Commission may require.

14 (c) **SUBGRANTS TO SMALL BUSINESS BROADBAND**
15 **PROVIDERS.**—A State that receives a grant under this sec-
16 tion shall use the grant funds to make subgrants to small
17 business broadband providers to enable such providers to
18 deploy broadband service in underserved areas in the
19 State.

20 (d) **USE OF SUBGRANT FUNDS.**—A small business
21 broadband provider that receives a subgrant from a State
22 under subsection (c) shall use the subgrant funds to de-
23 ploy, in underserved areas in the State, broadband service
24 with—

25 (1) a download speed of at least 25 megabits
26 per second;

1 (2) an upload speed of at least 10 megabits per
2 second; and

3 (3) latency that is sufficiently low to allow real-
4 time, interactive applications.

5 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) BROADBAND SERVICE.—The term
7 “broadband service” means broadband internet ac-
8 cess service (as defined in section 8.1(b) of title 47,
9 Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regu-
10 lation)).

11 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
12 means the Federal Communications Commission.

13 (3) SMALL BUSINESS BROADBAND PROVIDER.—
14 The term “small business broadband provider”
15 means a provider of broadband service that is a
16 small business concern (as defined under section 3
17 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

18 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each
19 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
20 each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the
21 United States, and each federally recognized Indian
22 Tribe.

23 (5) UNDERSERVED AREA.—The term “under-
24 served area” means an area in which only 1 provider
25 of broadband service offers broadband service with—

1 (A) a download speed of at least 25 mega-
2 bits per second and not more than 99 megabits
3 per second;

4 (B) an upload speed of at least 10 mega-
5 bits per second; and

6 (C) latency that is sufficiently low to allow
7 real-time, interactive applications.

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