

ORIGINAL HOUSE
BILL NO. HB0197

ENROLLED ACT NO. 64, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2021 GENERAL SESSION

AN ACT relating to the emergency expenses of government related to broadband internet access; authorizing the use of federal funds related to the Connect Wyoming program for broadband development in Wyoming; defining terms related to funding the program; providing for an appropriation; providing rulemaking authority; and providing for an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1.

(a) As used in this section:

(i) "CARES Act" means the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, P.L. 116-136, including any amendments to that act;

(ii) "Connect Wyoming" means the program created by the council that used available CARES Act funds for broadband development projects in Wyoming necessary to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency by bringing faster and more reliable broadband internet service in unserved and underserved areas;

(iii) "Council" means the Wyoming business council;

(iv) "Covered period" means the period beginning on the effective date of this act and ending December 31, 2021 except that if the period for which allowable costs may be incurred under section 601 of the federal Social Security Act, as created by section 5001 of the CARES Act and as amended by section 1001 of Division M of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, also known as the

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Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, is further amended or superseded, or if subsequent federal legislation is enacted that provides the state of Wyoming additional funds in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, "covered period" shall mean the period beginning on the effective date of this act and ending on the last date of the period specified by federal law for which allowable costs may be incurred.

(b) There is appropriated to the council an amount determined by the legislature from any unexpended, unobligated funds appropriated in 2020 Wyoming Special Session Laws, Chapter 1, Section 2(b) and as authorized and made available for expenditure in Section 2(c)(ii). If CARES Act funds are not available for any portion of this appropriation, the joint appropriations committee or any other committee tasked with developing legislation shall consider appropriating additional COVID-19 relief funds from any subsequent federal COVID-19 relief package. Any funds appropriated under this subsection shall be used only for broadband internet development projects through the Connect Wyoming program and consistent with the terms of the federal gift, grant or appropriation from which the funds originate. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose. Any unobligated, unexpended funds remaining from this appropriation on the last day of the covered period shall revert as provided by law.

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Section 2. The Wyoming business council shall promulgate all rules necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

Section 3. This act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

(END)

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Governor

TIME APPROVED: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____

I hereby certify that this act originated in the House.

Chief Clerk