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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5357**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2021 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Honeyford, King, Wagoner, Wellman, and Wilson, L.)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the capital broadband investment  
2 acceleration program; and adding a new section to chapter 43.330 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The capital broadband investment acceleration program is  
7 created in the statewide broadband office as established in RCW  
8 43.330.532. Funding appropriated for the program shall be used for  
9 the statewide broadband office to establish a competitive grant  
10 program to increase broadband access in unserved areas of the state,  
11 as defined in RCW 43.330.530. Funding must be awarded to match funds  
12 required to participate in the federal broadband infrastructure  
13 programs. Priority for grants must be for projects that serve  
14 distressed areas and rural counties as defined in RCW 43.168.020.

15 (2) Eligible applicants for grants awarded under this section  
16 include:

17 (a) Local governments;

18 (b) Tribes;

19 (c) Nonprofit organizations;

20 (d) Cooperative associations;

21 (e) Multiparty entities comprised of public entity members;

1 (f) Limited liability corporations organized for the purpose of  
2 expanding broadband access; and

3 (g) Incorporated businesses or partnerships.

4 (3) No more than three percent of the funds appropriated for the  
5 program may be expended by the statewide broadband office, the public  
6 works board, and the community economic revitalization board, for  
7 administration of the program.

8 (4) No more than three percent of each grant may be expended by  
9 the grant recipient for management or administration of the grant.

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