
SENATE BILL 5357

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, King, Wagoner, Wellman, and Wilson, L.

Read first time 01/27/21. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing and making appropriations for the
2 capital broadband investment acceleration program; adding a new
3 section to chapter 43.330 RCW; and making an appropriation.

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

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

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

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

- 18 (a) Local governments;
19 (b) Tribes;
20 (c) Nonprofit organizations;
21 (d) Cooperative associations;

1 (e) Multiparty entities comprised of public entity members;
2 (f) Limited liability corporations organized for the purpose of
3 expanding broadband access; and
4 (g) Incorporated businesses or partnerships.

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

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

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of \$200,000,000, or as much
12 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending
13 June 30, 2023, from the state building construction account—state to
14 the department of commerce for the purposes of this act.

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