

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to broadband Internet service;
 3 amending s. 364.0135, F.S.; defining terms;
 4 designating the Department of Economic Opportunity as
 5 the lead state agency to facilitate the expansion of
 6 broadband Internet service in the state; requiring the
 7 department to work collaboratively with certain
 8 entities; creating the Florida Office of Broadband
 9 within the Division of Community Development in the
 10 department; providing purpose and duties of the
 11 office; repealing chapter 2012-131, Laws of Florida,
 12 relating to broadband Internet service; providing an
 13 effective date.

14
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 17 Section 1. Section 364.0135, Florida Statutes, is amended
 18 to read:

19 364.0135 Promotion of broadband adoption; Florida Office
 20 of Broadband.—

21 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.—The Legislature finds that the
 22 sustainable adoption of broadband Internet service is critical
 23 to the economic and business development of this the state and
 24 is beneficial for libraries, schools, colleges and universities,
 25 health care providers, and community organizations.

26 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

27 (a) "Department" means the Department of Economic
 28 Opportunity.

29 (b) "Office" means the Florida Office of Broadband.

30 (c) "Sustainable adoption" means the ability for
 31 communications service providers to offer broadband services in
 32 all areas of the state by encouraging adoption and utilization
 33 levels that allow for these services to be offered in the free
 34 market absent the need for governmental subsidy.

35 (3)~~(2)~~ STATE AGENCY.—The department is designated as the
 36 lead state agency to facilitate the expansion of broadband
 37 Internet service in the state. The department shall ~~of~~
 38 ~~Management Services is authorized to~~ work collaboratively with,
 39 and to receive staffing support and other resources from,
 40 Enterprise Florida, Inc., state agencies, local governments,
 41 ~~private businesses,~~ and community organizations. ~~to:~~

42 (4) FLORIDA OFFICE OF BROADBAND.—The Florida Office of
 43 Broadband is created within the Division of Community
 44 Development in the department for the purpose of developing,
 45 marketing, and promoting broadband Internet services in the
 46 state. The office, in the performance of its duties, shall do
 47 all of the following:

48 (a) ~~Monitor the adoption of broadband Internet service in~~
 49 ~~collaboration with communications service providers, including,~~
 50 ~~but not limited to, wireless and wireline Internet service~~

51 ~~providers, to develop geographical information system maps at~~
52 ~~the census tract level that will:~~

53 ~~1. Identify geographic gaps in broadband services,~~
54 ~~including areas unserved by any broadband provider and areas~~
55 ~~served by a single broadband provider;~~

56 ~~2. Identify the download and upload transmission speeds~~
57 ~~made available to businesses and individuals in the state, at~~
58 ~~the census tract level of detail, using data rate benchmarks for~~
59 ~~broadband service used by the Federal Communications Commission~~
60 ~~to reflect different speed tiers; and~~

61 ~~3. Provide a baseline assessment of statewide broadband~~
62 ~~deployment in terms of percentage of households with broadband~~
63 ~~availability.~~

64 ~~(b)~~ Create a strategic plan that has goals and strategies
65 for increasing the use of broadband Internet service in the
66 state.

67 (b)~~(e)~~ Build and facilitate local technology planning
68 teams or partnerships with members representing cross-sections
69 of the community, which may include, but are not limited to,
70 representatives from the following organizations and industries:
71 libraries, K-12 education, colleges and universities, local
72 health care providers, private businesses, community
73 organizations, economic development organizations, local
74 governments, tourism, parks and recreation, and agriculture.

75 (c)~~(d)~~ Encourage the use of broadband Internet service,

76 | especially in the rural, unserved, or ~~and~~ underserved
 77 | communities of the state through grant programs having effective
 78 | strategies to facilitate the statewide deployment of broadband
 79 | Internet service. For any grants to be awarded, priority must be
 80 | given to projects that:

81 | 1. Provide access to broadband education, awareness,
 82 | training, access, equipment, and support to libraries, schools,
 83 | colleges and universities, health care providers, and community
 84 | support organizations.

85 | 2. Encourage the sustainable adoption of broadband in
 86 | primarily underserved ~~unserved~~ areas by removing barriers to
 87 | entry.

88 | 3. Work toward encouraging investments in establishing
 89 | affordable and sustainable broadband Internet service in
 90 | underserved ~~unserved~~ areas of the state.

91 | 4. Facilitate the development of applications, programs,
 92 | and services, including, but not limited to, telework,
 93 | telemedicine, and e-learning to increase the usage of, and
 94 | demand for, broadband Internet service in the state.

95 | ~~(5)(3)~~ ADMINISTRATION.—The department may:

96 | (a) Apply for and accept federal funds for purposes of
 97 | this section, ~~as well as gifts and donations from individuals,~~
 98 | ~~foundations, and private organizations.~~

99 | (b) ~~(4)~~ ~~The department may~~ Enter into contracts necessary
 100 | or useful to carry out the purposes of this section.

101 ~~(c)(5) The department may~~ Establish any committee or
102 workgroup to administer and carry out the purposes of this
103 section.

104 Section 2. Chapter 2012-131, Laws of Florida, is repealed.

105 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.