

**First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 21-0412.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

HOUSE BILL 21-1109

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT BOARD, AND, IN**
102 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, MOVING THE BOARD FROM THE**
103 **DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES TO THE OFFICE OF**
104 **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, MODIFYING THE COMPOSITION OF**
105 **THE BOARD, REQUIRING THE BOARD TO DEVELOP A REQUEST**
106 **FOR PROPOSAL PROCESS FOR DEPLOYING BROADBAND INTO**
107 **CRITICALLY UNSERVED AREAS IN THE STATE, AND REQUIRING**
108 **THE BOARD TO GIVE ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION TO PROPOSED**
109 **PROJECTS THAT WOULD INCLUDE DISCOUNTED SERVICE FOR**
110 **LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 22, 2021

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 19, 2021

not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Sections 1 and 3 of the bill exempt certain mapping data submitted to the office of information technology (office) from public disclosure under the "Colorado Open Records Act".

Section 2 adds a definition of "critically unserved", which means a household or area that lies outside municipal boundaries and lacks access to at least one provider of nonsatellite broadband service delivered at measurable speeds of at least 10 megabits per second downstream and one megabit per second upstream, and a definition of "office of information technology".

Section 3 reduces the membership of the broadband deployment board (board) in the department of regulatory agencies from 16 members to 11 members.

The board is required to develop a request for proposal process through which the board will solicit bids for proposed projects to serve areas of the state that the office has determined lack access to broadband service at measurable speeds of at least 10 megabits per second downstream and one megabit per second upstream. The board is required to reserve at least 75% of the money from the high cost support mechanism that is allocated for broadband deployment to award grants to proposed projects solicited through the request for proposal process.

Section 3 also directs the board to:

- Require an applicant or appellant to submit a speed test performed on an incumbent provider's network and conducted in accordance with industry-standard speed-test protocols;
- Give additional consideration to proposed projects that would give discounted service for low-income households;
- Contractually require an applicant receiving a grant award to:
 - Report annually on the number of homes and businesses served by the grant-supported broadband network, the number of homes and businesses expected to be served in the following year, and the speeds, rates, and services offered to customers through the grant-supported broadband network; and
 - Provide third-party certification, after the grant money has been fully expended, that the project meets the original design of, and provides the measurable speeds, rates, and services set forth in,

the application.

- Require an applicant or appellant to submit to the office, in a form and manner determined by the office, certain granular mapping data.

Section 4 repeals the current board composition requirements on August 31, 2021.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **amend**
3 **(25)(a)(VI)** as follows:

4 **24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies**
5 **and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative**
6 **declaration - repeal.** (25) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both,
7 are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2024:

8 (VI) The functions of the broadband deployment board created in
9 section ~~40-15-509.5~~ 24-37.5-118;

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add with amended**
11 **and relocated provisions** 24-37.5-118 as follows:

12 **24-37.5-118. [Formerly 40-15-509.5] Broadband service -**
13 **report - broadband deployment board - broadband administrative**
14 **fund - creation - rules - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.**

15 (1) **Short title.** This section shall be known and may be cited as THE
16 SHORT TITLE OF THIS SECTION IS the "Connect Colorado to Enhance
17 Economic Development, Telehealth, Education, and Safety Act".

18 (2) The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares
19 that to promote the state policy of providing universal access to
20 broadband service, as set forth in section 40-15-502 (4), it may be
21 necessary to provide financial assistance through additional support
22 mechanisms if competition for local exchange services fails to deliver

1 broadband service throughout the state. "Advanced service" includes
2 "broadband service" for purposes of this section only.

3 (3) The commission may allocate the Colorado high cost support
4 mechanism established under section 40-15-208 and referred to in this
5 section as the "HCSM", for the deployment of broadband service in
6 unserved areas of the state pursuant to this section and section 40-15-208
7 only. The commission may fund the deployment of broadband service in
8 unserved areas of the state through use of the HCSM surcharge and
9 surcharge rate in effect on January 1, 2018. Pursuant to subsection (4) of
10 this section and consistent with sections 40-15-207 and 40-15-208, the
11 commission shall determine funds available for broadband deployment
12 and the administration of the board as prescribed in section 40-15-208 or
13 from the HCSM money that it determines is no longer required by the
14 HCSM to support universal basic service, AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN
15 SECTION 40-15-102 (3), through an effective competition determination.
16 The AN HCSM THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN AND HOLD
17 THE money available for broadband deployment shall be maintained by
18 the HCSM third-party contractor and held in a separate account from
19 money used for basic voice service. Money held for broadband
20 deployment shall not be disbursed for basic voice service, and money held
21 for basic voice service shall not be disbursed for broadband deployment.
22 The commission shall only disburse money for broadband deployment
23 grants from the HCSM as directed by the board. Nothing in this section
24 increases any surcharge rate charged to help fund the HCSM.

25 (4) (a) There is hereby created in the state treasury the broadband
26 administrative fund, referred to in this section as the "fund". The fund
27 consists of all money allocated from the HCSM for the administration of

1 the board and all money that the general assembly may appropriate to the
2 fund. The money in the fund is subject to annual appropriation by the
3 general assembly for the purposes set forth in this section. All interest
4 earned from the investment of money in the fund is credited to the fund.
5 All money not expended at the end of the ANY STATE fiscal year remains
6 in the fund and does not revert to the general fund or any other fund.

7 (b) Repealed.

8 (5) (a) There is hereby created in the department of regulatory
9 agencies OFFICE the broadband deployment board, referred to in this
10 section as the "board". The board is an independent board created to
11 implement and administer the deployment of broadband service in
12 unserved areas. The department of regulatory agencies OFFICE shall staff
13 the board. The board has the powers and duties specified in this section.

14 (b) (I) (A) The board consists of sixteen members, fifteen of
15 whom are voting members. The members of the board shall be selected
16 on the basis of their knowledge of and interest in broadband service and
17 shall serve for four-year terms. A member of the board shall not serve
18 more than two consecutive full four-year terms.

19 (B) THIS SUBSECTION (5)(b)(I) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE
20 SEPTEMBER 1, 2021.

21 (II) (A) COMMENCING ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, THE BOARD
22 CONSISTS OF ELEVEN VOTING MEMBERS. THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
23 SHALL BE SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF AND INTEREST
24 IN BROADBAND SERVICE AND SHALL SERVE FOR FOUR-YEAR TERMS. A
25 MEMBER OF THE BOARD SHALL NOT SERVE MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE
26 FULL FOUR-YEAR TERMS; EXCEPT THAT THE LIMIT ON TERMS OF OFFICE
27 DOES NOT APPLY TO THE BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTING THE OFFICE.

1 (B) AN APPOINTING AUTHORITY MAY APPOINT A BOARD MEMBER
2 SEATED ON THE BOARD ON AUGUST 31, 2021, TO CONTINUE SERVING ON
3 THE BOARD ON AND AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, FOR THE REMAINDER OF
4 THE BOARD MEMBER'S EXISTING TERM AS OF AUGUST 31, 2021, IF THE
5 BOARD MEMBER MEETS THE BOARD MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA SET FORTH IN
6 SUBSECTION (7)(d) OF THIS SECTION AND THE BOARD MEMBER'S
7 CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD DOES NOT ENLARGE THE
8 MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBSECTION
9 (5)(b)(II)(A) OF THIS SECTION. IF OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE FOR
10 REAPPOINTMENT, THE BOARD MEMBER MAY BE APPOINTED FOR AN
11 ADDITIONAL TERM AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2021. THIS SUBSECTION
12 (5)(b)(II)(B) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2024.

13 (c) (6) (a) No more than eight voting members of any one major
14 political party may serve on the board at the same time. Members of the
15 board are entitled to seventy-five dollars per diem for attendance at
16 official meetings plus actual and necessary expenses incurred in the
17 conduct of official business. Members of the board shall be appointed as
18 follows:

19 (I) At least one member from the commission; one member from
20 the Colorado office of economic development and international trade in
21 the office of the governor; one member from the department of local
22 affairs, created in section 24-1-125; C.R.S.; and one member from the
23 office, of information technology, created in section 24-37.5-103, C.R.S.,
24 as appointed by the governor. The governor shall select three of these
25 four appointees to serve as voting members of the board.

26 (II) Three voting members representing local entities:

27 (A) One of whom is a county commissioner, as appointed by the

1 president of the senate in consultation with Colorado Counties, Inc.;
2 (B) One of whom is a mayor or city councilperson, as appointed
3 by the speaker of the house of representatives in consultation with the
4 Colorado Municipal League; and
5 (C) One of whom is any other representative of a local entity and
6 who has a background in broadband service and expertise in rural
7 economic development, education, or telemedicine, as appointed by the
8 minority leader of the senate;
9 (III) Seven voting members representing the broadband industry:
10 (A) One of whom represents a wireless provider, as appointed by
11 the minority leader of the house of representatives;
12 (B) One of whom represents a wireline provider, as appointed by
13 the minority leader of the senate;
14 (C) One of whom represents a broadband satellite provider, as
15 appointed by the governor;
16 (D) One of whom represents a cable provider, as appointed by the
17 president of the senate;
18 (E) One of whom represents a rural local exchange carrier, as
19 appointed by the governor;
20 (F) One of whom represents a competitive local exchange carrier,
21 as appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and
22 (G) One of whom represents a cable provider serving rural areas,
23 as appointed by the president of the senate; and
24 (IV) Two voting members of the public:
25 (A) One of whom resides in an unserved area of the western slope
26 of the state, as appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
27 and

1 (B) One of whom resides in an unserved area of the eastern slope
2 of the state, as appointed by the minority leader of the house of
3 representatives.

4 ~~(C) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2018.)~~

5 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (6) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,
6 2021.

7 ~~(d) (7) (a) The board shall meet as often as necessary to carry out~~
8 its duties as defined in this section.

9 ~~(e) (b) The term of any member of the board who misses more~~
10 than two consecutive regular board meetings without good cause shall be
11 terminated, and his or her THE MEMBER'S successor shall be appointed in
12 the manner provided for appointments under this section.

13 ~~(f) (c) (I) If a board member has a conflict of interest with respect~~
14 to any matter addressed by the board, including a financial interest in the
15 matter, the member shall recuse himself or herself from any discussion or
16 decisions on the matter.

17 (II) (A) A board member appointed pursuant to subsection
18 ~~(5)(c)(I), (5)(c)(II), or (5)(c)(IV)~~ (6)(a)(I), (6)(a)(II), OR (6)(a)(IV) of this
19 section is not deemed to have a conflict of interest merely by virtue of
20 residing in or representing an unserved area or an area that is the subject
21 of an application before the board.

22 (B) A board member appointed pursuant to subsection ~~(5)(c)(III)~~
23 (6)(a)(III) of this section is deemed to have a conflict of interest with
24 respect to an application filed by an entity that the board member
25 represents; however, if such application is filed, the board member may
26 still participate in discussions about other applications before the board,
27 but shall not vote on those other applications.

1 (III) THIS SUBSECTION (7)(c) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER
2 1, 2021.

3 (d) COMMENCING ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, AT LEAST THREE
4 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD MUST BE AFFILIATED WITH ONE OF THE TWO
5 MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES AND AT LEAST THREE MEMBERS MUST BE
6 AFFILIATED WITH THE OTHER MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY, WITH EACH
7 MEMBER HAVING BEEN REGISTERED WITH THEIR POLITICAL PARTY FOR AT
8 LEAST ONE YEAR. AT LEAST THREE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD MUST BE
9 UNAFFILIATED WITH EITHER OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES, HAVING
10 BEEN UNAFFILIATED FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
11 ARE ENTITLED TO SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS PER DIEM FOR ATTENDANCE AT
12 OFFICIAL MEETINGS PLUS ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED
13 IN THE CONDUCT OF OFFICIAL BUSINESS. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL
14 BE APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:

15 (I) ONE VOTING MEMBER FROM THE OFFICE, APPOINTED BY THE
16 GOVERNOR;

17 (II) THREE VOTING MEMBERS REPRESENTING LOCAL ENTITIES:

18 (A) ONE OF WHOM IS A COUNTY COMMISSIONER FROM THE
19 EASTERN PLAINS OF THE STATE, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
20 SENATE;

21 (B) ONE OF WHOM IS A COUNTY COMMISSIONER FROM THE
22 WESTERN SLOPE OF THE STATE, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
23 OF REPRESENTATIVES; AND

24 (C) ONE OF WHOM REPRESENTS A RURAL CITY OR TOWN AS A
25 MAYOR OR CITY COUNCILPERSON, AS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR. AS
26 USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (7)(d)(II)(C), "RURAL" HAS THE MEANING SET
27 FORTH IN SECTION 24-32-3603 (3)(a).

1 (III) FIVE VOTING MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE BROADBAND
2 INDUSTRY:

3 (A) ONE OF WHOM REPRESENTS A WIRELESS PROVIDER, APPOINTED
4 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

5 (B) ONE OF WHOM REPRESENTS A WIRELINE PROVIDER, APPOINTED
6 BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;

7 (C) ONE OF WHOM REPRESENTS A BROADBAND SATELLITE
8 PROVIDER, APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES;

10 (D) ONE OF WHOM REPRESENTS A CABLE PROVIDER, APPOINTED BY
11 THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE; AND

12 (E) ONE OF WHOM REPRESENTS A RURAL WIRELINE PROVIDER,
13 APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE; AND

14 (IV) TWO VOTING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

15 (A) ONE OF WHOM RESIDES IN AN UNSERVED AREA OF THE
16 WESTERN SLOPE OF THE STATE, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR; AND

17 (B) ONE OF WHOM RESIDES IN AN UNSERVED AREA OF THE
18 EASTERN PLAINS OF THE STATE, APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF
19 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

20 (e) COMMENCING ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2021:

21 (I) IF A BOARD MEMBER HAS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH
22 RESPECT TO ANY MATTER ADDRESSED BY THE BOARD, INCLUDING A
23 FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE MATTER, THE MEMBER SHALL RECUSE
24 HIMSELF OR HERSELF FROM ANY DISCUSSION OR DECISIONS ON THE
25 MATTER;

26 (II) A BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
27 (7)(d)(I), (7)(d)(II), OR (7)(d)(IV) OF THIS SECTION IS NOT DEEMED TO

1 HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST MERELY BY VIRTUE OF RESIDING IN OR
2 REPRESENTING AN UNSERVED AREA, A CRITICALLY UNSERVED AREA, OR AN
3 AREA THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF AN APPLICATION BEFORE THE BOARD; AND

4 (III) A BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
5 (7)(d)(III) OF THIS SECTION IS DEEMED TO HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST
6 WITH RESPECT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY AN ENTITY THAT THE BOARD
7 MEMBER REPRESENTS; HOWEVER, IF SUCH APPLICATION IS FILED, THE
8 BOARD MEMBER MAY STILL PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT OTHER
9 APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE BOARD BUT SHALL NOT VOTE ON THOSE OTHER
10 APPLICATIONS.

11 (g) (f) In the event of a tie vote of the board, the application,
12 appeal, proposition, or other matter being voted upon fails.

13 (g) COMMENCING ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, SIX MEMBERS OF THE
14 BOARD CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

15 (6) Repealed.

16 (7) (8) The board shall provide notice to and requests for
17 proposals from incumbent providers, incumbent broadband providers, and
18 local entities about the board's purpose to deploy broadband service in
19 unserved areas. The board shall ensure that both the manner and amount
20 of notice provided under this subsection (7) (8) are adequate and
21 equitable for all potentially eligible applicants.

22 (8) (9) The board shall direct the commission to transfer money,
23 in a manner consistent with this section, from the HCSM account
24 DEDICATED for broadband deployment established in the HCSM
25 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION to approved grant
26 applicants. The board shall develop criteria for awarding money for new
27 projects to deploy broadband in unserved areas, including:

1 (a) (I) Developing a project application process that places the
2 burden on an eligible applicant to demonstrate that its proposed project
3 meets the project eligibility criteria established in this subsection (8) (9),
4 including a requirement that the proposal concern a new project, and not
5 a project already in progress, and a requirement to prove that the area to
6 be served by the proposed project is an unserved area.

7 (II) To prove that the area to be served is an unserved area, the
8 applicant:

9 (A) Must submit a map and a list of household addresses
10 demonstrating the insufficient availability of broadband service in the
11 area to the board; the board of county commissioners, city council, or
12 other local entity with authority over the area to be served; and all
13 incumbent providers or incumbent broadband providers that provide
14 broadband internet service or broadband service in the area proposed to
15 be served in the application; and

16 (B) May submit to the board EITHER the written certification of a
17 local entity as described in subsection (8)(a)(HH) (9)(a)(III) of this section
18 OR A STATISTICALLY REPRESENTATIVE NUMBER OF SPEED TESTS
19 PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (9)(a)(VII) OF THIS
20 SECTION.

21 (III) As additional evidence of the insufficient availability of
22 broadband service in the area that an applicant proposes to serve, the
23 applicant may request from a local entity with jurisdiction over the area
24 proposed to be served a written certification that the area is an unserved
25 area. The local entity shall not provide written certification until after the
26 local entity has:

27 (A) Provided public notice, including notification to any

1 incumbent provider, if any, and held a hearing on the issue; and

2 (B) Collected, solicited, and reviewed any quantitative data that
3 it deems appropriate regarding the availability of broadband service in the
4 area that the applicant proposes to serve. A local entity must collect,
5 solicit, and review quantitative data in accordance with rules adopted by
6 the executive director of the department of regulatory agencies CHIEF
7 INFORMATION OFFICER, in consultation with the office of information
8 technology created in section 24-37.5-103 and the board, regarding
9 standards concerning quantitative data.

10 (IV) The board shall establish a notice and comment period of at
11 least sixty days within which any interested party, including a local entity
12 with jurisdiction over the area proposed to be served, whether or not the
13 entity provided a written certification as described in subsection
14 (8)(a)(II) (9)(a)(III) of this section, may review and comment on the
15 application.

16 (V) (A) THE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
17 PROCESS UNDER WHICH, FOR EACH CALENDAR YEAR, THE BOARD RESERVES
18 UP TO SIXTY PERCENT OF THE HCSM MONEY ALLOCATED FOR BROADBAND
19 DEPLOYMENT TO AWARD GRANTS TO PROPOSED PROJECTS THAT SERVE
20 CRITICALLY UNSERVED AREAS IDENTIFIED BY THE OFFICE, INCLUDING ANY
21 CRITICALLY UNSERVED AREAS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF AN INDIAN
22 RESERVATION LOCATED WITHIN THE STATE.

23 (B) AT THE END OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR, ANY OF THE RESERVED
24 MONEY NOT AWARDED THROUGH THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PROCESS
25 REMAINS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION THROUGH THE EXISTING GRANT
26 APPLICATION PROCESS.

27 (C) ALL APPLICATION AND APPEAL PROCESSES AND CRITERIA SET

1 FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION (9) APPLY TO THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2 PROCESS; EXCEPT THAT THE REQUIREMENT TO PROVE THAT AN AREA TO BE
3 SERVED BY A PROPOSED PROJECT IS AN UNSERVED AREA AS SET FORTH IN
4 SUBSECTION (9)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY AND SUBSECTIONS
5 (9)(a)(II), (9)(a)(III), (9)(b), AND (9)(d) OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY.
6 SUBSECTION (9)(e)(II) OF THIS SECTION ONLY APPLIES TO THE REQUEST
7 FOR PROPOSAL PROCESS IN THE LIMITED MANNER INDICATED IN THAT
8 SUBSECTION.

9 (D) THE BOARD, IN IMPLEMENTING THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
10 PROCESS, NEED NOT COMPLY WITH THE "PROCUREMENT CODE", ARTICLES
11 101 TO 112 OF THIS TITLE 24.

12 (E) THIS SUBSECTION (9)(a)(V) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE
13 SEPTEMBER 1, 2024.

14 (VI) (A) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2021, THE OFFICE SHALL
15 DEVELOP AND SUBMIT TO THE BOARD ONE OR MORE MAPS IDENTIFYING
16 THE CRITICALLY UNSERVED AREAS IN THE STATE. THE BOARD SHALL
17 UTILIZE THE MAPS SUBMITTED WHEN REVIEWING ANY APPLICATION OR
18 APPEAL PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

19 (B) WITH REGARD TO THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PROCESS SET
20 FORTH IN SUBSECTION (9)(a)(V) OF THIS SECTION, BASED ON THE MAPS
21 SUBMITTED, THE BOARD SHALL CHOOSE CRITICALLY UNSERVED AREAS FOR
22 WHICH THE BOARD SHALL SOLICIT PROPOSED PROJECT BIDS TO SERVE
23 THOSE AREAS. IN CHOOSING THE CRITICALLY UNSERVED AREAS FOR WHICH
24 THE BOARD WILL SOLICIT PROPOSED PROJECT BIDS, THE BOARD SHALL
25 STRIVE TO ENSURE GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY AMONG THE AREAS CHOSEN.
26 THIS SUBSECTION (9)(a)(VI)(B) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,
27 2024.

1 (VII) IF AN APPLICANT FILING AN APPLICATION OR AN APPELLANT
2 FILING AN APPEAL PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9)(k)(III) OF THIS SECTION
3 SUBMITS, AS PART OF THE APPLICATION OR APPEAL, A SPEED TEST
4 PERFORMED ON AN INCUMBENT PROVIDER'S NETWORK, THE SPEED TEST
5 SHALL BE PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INDUSTRY-STANDARD
6 SPEED-TEST PROTOCOLS AS IDENTIFIED BY THE FCC.

7 (b) Developing a methodology for determining whether a
8 proposed project will serve unserved areas. The board's methodology
9 must give substantial weight to a local entity's written certification on the
10 issue of whether the area to be served is an unserved area.

11 (c) Denying funding for applications that overbuild areas
12 receiving federal sources of high cost support or federal broadband grants
13 for construction of a broadband network that will be completed within
14 twenty-four months after the date that the applicant filed the application
15 so as to maximize the total available state and federal support for rural
16 broadband development. An incumbent broadband provider receiving
17 federal funds must submit to the board an affidavit from a company
18 officer that the build-out will be completed within the twenty-four-month
19 period. Upon completion of the project, an incumbent broadband provider
20 will provide documentation to the board that demonstrates that the
21 unserved addresses meet the minimum download and upload speeds
22 established in the FCC's definition of high-speed internet access or
23 broadband. If the incumbent broadband provider fails to meet the
24 commitment made in the affidavit filed, the board may award a grant to
25 another provider to provide service for the addresses that remain
26 unserved.

27 (c.5) (d) Denying funding for overbuilding of existing broadband

1 networks in order to maximize the total available support for financing
2 rural broadband development;

3 (d) (e) Ensuring that a proposed project includes:

4 (I) Access to measurable speeds of at least ten megabits per
5 second downstream and one megabit per second upstream or measurable
6 speeds at least equal to the FCC's definition of high-speed internet access
7 or broadband, whichever is faster;

8 (II) (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (9)(e)(II)(B) OF THIS
9 SECTION, independent funding secured for at least twenty-five percent of
10 the total cost of the proposed project. and

11 (B) THE BOARD MAY AUTHORIZE A PROPOSED PROJECT AWARDED
12 GRANT MONEY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9)(a)(V) OF THIS SECTION TO
13 SECURE A LESSER AMOUNT OF INDEPENDENT FUNDING IF THE PROPOSED
14 PROJECT MEETS THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION (9) AND THE
15 AMOUNT OF INDEPENDENT FUNDING SECURED IS THE HIGHEST AMOUNT OF
16 INDEPENDENT FUNDING PROPOSED AMONG MULTIPLE PROPOSALS TO SERVE
17 THE AREA TO BE SERVED BY THE PROPOSED PROJECT. THIS SUBSECTION
18 (9)(e)(II)(B) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2024.

19 (III) A requirement to utilize any award granted from the fund
20 HCSM ACCOUNT DEDICATED TO BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT PURSUANT TO
21 SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION for infrastructure purposes only and not
22 for operations;

23 (e) (f) Providing additional consideration for proposed projects
24 that include INCLUDES at least some of the following factors:

25 (I) Proposed projects that provide service to residential and
26 business addresses that lack broadband internet service at measurable
27 speeds of at least ten megabits per second downstream and one megabit

1 per second upstream;

2 (II) Proposed projects that are endorsed by local entities interested
3 in obtaining broadband internet service in unserved areas of the state;

4 (III) Proposed projects that have speeds of at least ten megabits
5 per second downstream and one megabit per second upstream or
6 measurable speeds at least equal to the FCC's definition of high-speed
7 internet access or broadband, whichever is faster;

8 (IV) Proposed projects for which the applicant has an established
9 record of operation in the area of the grant application; and

10 (V) Proposed projects providing last-mile broadband service,
11 which is defined as the portion of broadband service that delivers an
12 internet connection to an end user; that lacks access to broadband service
13 at measurable speeds greater than fifty-six kilobits per second; AND

14 (VI) PROPOSED PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE DISCOUNTED BROADBAND
15 SERVICE TO LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS;

16 (f) (g) Providing an assessment of the following factors:

17 (I) Whether the proposed project will provide services via a
18 licensed or unlicensed means of transmission;

19 (II) The cost-effectiveness of the proposed project's proposed
20 method for expanding broadband internet service into unserved areas; and

21 (III) The reliability of the network providing broadband services;

22 (g) (h) (I) With regard to an applicant that has submitted a
23 proposed project to the board, affording each incumbent provider in the
24 area that is not providing access to a broadband network in the unserved
25 area a right of first refusal regarding the implementation of a project in
26 the unserved area.

27 (II) If an incumbent provider proposes a project for the area, the

1 incumbent provider commits to providing access to a broadband network:

2 (A) Within one year after the applicant's submission of a proposed
3 project;

4 (B) At demonstrated downstream and upstream speeds equal to or
5 faster than the speeds indicated in the applicant's proposed project; and

6 (C) At a cost per household in the area to be served that is equal
7 to or less than the cost per household indicated in the applicant's proposed
8 project.

9 (h) (i) Ensuring that broadband service grant awards are not
10 provided in areas other than unserved areas;

11 (i) (j) In the case of a franchise agreement, ensuring that
12 broadband service grant awards are not provided in areas with a
13 population density large enough to require service under an existing
14 franchise agreement;

15 (i) (k) Establishing a grant award process that:

16 (I) Allows an applicant to apply for grants on multiple projects in
17 a given year if the applicant makes a separate application for each project.
18 The board may approve more than one of the applicant's projects within
19 a single year.

20 (II) Ensures the geographically equitable distribution of grant
21 awards;

22 (III) Provides for an appeals process for any party aggrieved by an
23 award or denial of grant money, whether exercising a right of first refusal,
24 having filed any comments regarding the initial grant application, or both.
25 If a provider of broadband service or a broadband network that alleges
26 funding provided pursuant to this section will overbuild the provider's
27 broadband network, the provider is an aggrieved party with standing to

1 appeal under this subsection ~~(8)(j)(HH)~~ (9)(k)(III).

2 (IV) Requires the board to consider appeals alleging that the
3 application area is no longer unserved because federal support improves
4 a broadband network for service locations that are adjacent to the area
5 receiving the federal award and are within the application area;

6 ~~(k)~~ (l) Establishing reporting and accountability requirements for
7 a project receiving financial support from the fund HCSM ACCOUNT
8 DEDICATED TO BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)
9 OF THIS SECTION, including contractual requirements that:

10 (I) The applicant secure a performance bond for the project, as
11 appropriate;

12 (II) The applicant demonstrate an ability to provide broadband
13 service at a reasonable cost per household in the area to be served by the
14 proposed project;

15 (III) The applicant demonstrate an ability to complete the
16 proposed project within a reasonable time, not to exceed two years, unless
17 delayed by a government entity; and

18 (IV) Prohibit an applicant from using grant award moneys MONEY
19 to offer, provide, or sell broadband services in an area not meeting the
20 definition of unserved area;

21 (V) THE APPLICANT, ON AN ANNUAL BASIS UNTIL THE GRANT
22 MONEY HAS BEEN FULLY EXPENDED, REPORT TO THE BOARD ON THE
23 FOLLOWING:

24 (A) THE NUMBER OF HOMES AND BUSINESSES THAT THE
25 APPLICANT'S GRANT-SUPPORTED BROADBAND NETWORK SERVES;

26 (B) THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL HOMES AND BUSINESSES THAT
27 THE APPLICANT EXPECTS TO SERVE THROUGH THE GRANT-SUPPORTED

1 BROADBAND NETWORK WITHIN THE FOLLOWING YEAR; AND

2 (C) THE SPEED TIERS, ADVERTISED RATES, AND SERVICES THAT
3 THE APPLICANT OFFERS TO CUSTOMERS THROUGH THE GRANT-SUPPORTED
4 BROADBAND NETWORK, INCLUDING SPEED TIERS, RATES, AND OTHER
5 SERVICES THAT THE APPLICANT OFFERS TO LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS;
6 AND

7 (VI) THE APPLICANT, AFTER THE GRANT MONEY HAS BEEN FULLY
8 EXPENDED, PROVIDE THIRD-PARTY PERFORMANCE-TESTING
9 CERTIFICATION, BASED ON FCC-APPROVED PERFORMANCE-TESTING
10 PROTOCOLS, THAT THE PROJECT MEETS THE ORIGINAL DESIGN OF, AND
11 PROVIDES THE MEASURABLE SPEEDS, RATES, AND SERVICES SET FORTH IN,
12 THE APPLICATION;

13 (m) (I) COMMENCING IN THE GRANT FUNDING CYCLE THAT BEGINS
14 IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (9)(m),
15 REQUIRING AN APPLICANT, OR AN APPELLANT FILING AN APPEAL PURSUANT
16 TO SUBSECTION (9)(k)(III) OF THIS SECTION, TO SUBMIT, IN THE FORM AND
17 MANNER DETERMINED BY THE OFFICE OR, IF THE FCC ADOPTS
18 REGULATIONS REQUIRING THE SUBMISSION OF GRANULAR COVERAGE
19 DATA, IN THE FORM AND MANNER REQUIRED BY THE FCC, GRANULAR
20 COVERAGE DATA TO THE OFFICE. IF THE FCC ADOPTS SUCH REGULATIONS,
21 THE OFFICE SHALL NOT IMPOSE ANY GRANULAR COVERAGE DATA
22 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS THAT ARE MORE ONEROUS OR LESS
23 STRINGENT THAN THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THE FCC'S
24 REGULATIONS. UPON REQUEST OF THE BOARD, THE OFFICE SHALL INFORM
25 THE BOARD IF AN APPLICANT HAS SUBMITTED THE GRANULAR COVERAGE
26 DATA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION (9)(m).

27 (II) GRANULAR COVERAGE DATA SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THIS

1 SUBSECTION (9)(m) IS NOT A PUBLIC RECORD AS DEFINED IN, AND IS NOT
2 SUBJECT TO PUBLIC DISCLOSURE UNDER, THE "COLORADO OPEN RECORDS
3 ACT", PART 2 OF ARTICLE 72 OF THIS TITLE 24.

4 (III) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (9)(m), "GRANULAR COVERAGE
5 DATA" MEANS MAPPING DATA PRESENTED IN THE FORM OF A COVERAGE
6 POLYGON OR LOCATION COORDINATES THAT REFLECTS:

7 (A) THE MAXIMUM DOWNLOAD AND UPLOAD SPEEDS AVAILABLE
8 IN EACH AREA;

9 (B) THE TECHNOLOGY USED TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE; AND

10 (C) A DIFFERENTIATION AMONG RESIDENTIAL-ONLY,
11 BUSINESS-ONLY, AND RESIDENTIAL-AND-BUSINESS BROADBAND SERVICES.

12 (8.3) (10) (a) The board shall periodically review the websites of
13 the federal trade commission and the FCC to determine whether either of
14 those federal agencies has issued a final order or entered into a settlement
15 or consent decree regarding any:

16 (I) Applicant seeking broadband deployment grant money from
17 the board; or

18 (II) Internet service provider, as defined in section 40-15-209
19 (4)(b), to which the board has awarded broadband deployment grant
20 money.

21 (b) The board shall review any order or decree described in
22 subsection (8.3)(a) (10)(a) of this section to determine whether the
23 internet service provider that is the subject of the order or decree has
24 engaged in conduct prohibited by section 40-15-209 (1)(a) to (1)(d). The
25 board shall deny the application of any applicant subject to such a federal
26 order or decree and shall inform the commission pursuant to section
27 40-15-209 (2)(a) about any internet service provider awarded broadband

1 deployment grant money that is subject to such an order or decree.

2 (8.5) (11) (a) The board shall deny an application that contains an
3 area that does not meet the definition of unserved area and shall grant an
4 appeal to an incumbent broadband provider that demonstrates, by a
5 preponderance of the evidence, that an area covered by an application
6 does not meet the definition of unserved area.

7 (b) If all other application requirements remain met, an
8 application may be amended at any time to remove from the application
9 coverage of an area that does not meet the criteria established pursuant to
10 this section. Alternatively, the board may award a partial grant for an area
11 that does meet the criteria.

12 (9) (12) (a) The board shall report annually to the transportation
13 and energy LOCAL GOVERNMENT committee and the business affairs and
14 labor committee in the house of representatives and to the agriculture,
15 natural resources, TRANSPORTATION and energy committee and business,
16 labor, and technology committee in the senate, or their successor
17 committees, on the projects supported by money from the HCSM account
18 dedicated to broadband deployment PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS
19 SECTION in a given year, including information on:

- 20 (I) The number of projects;
- 21 (II) The location of each project;
- 22 (III) The amount of funding received for each project; and
- 23 (IV) A description of each project.

24 (b) Notwithstanding section 24-1-136 (11), C.R.S., the report
25 required under this subsection (9) (12) continues indefinitely.

26 (10) (13) Local entities are encouraged to cooperate with respect
27 to timelines and permit fees concerning projects in their geographic area.

1 ~~(10.5) (14) (a) The board may apply for OR OTHERWISE RECEIVE~~
2 ~~federal funding of broadband deployment projects and programs. IF THE~~
3 ~~BOARD RECEIVES ANY FEDERAL FUNDING, THE BOARD SHALL UTILIZE THE~~
4 ~~REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PROCESS ESTABLISHED UNDER, OR~~
5 ~~SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE PROCESS ESTABLISHED UNDER,~~
6 ~~SUBSECTION (9)(a)(V) OF THIS SECTION TO DISTRIBUTE THE FEDERAL~~
7 ~~FUNDS AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, SO LONG AS SUCH PROCESS COMPLIES~~
8 ~~WITH FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF THE FUNDS AND THE FUNDS ARE~~
9 ~~USED FOR CRITICALLY UNSERVED AREAS.~~

10 ~~(b) The HCSM third-party contractor shall maintain any federal~~
11 ~~money awarded for broadband deployment in a separate account of the~~
12 ~~HCSM that is dedicated to allocating federal broadband deployment~~
13 ~~money. The commission is authorized to disburse any money from the~~
14 ~~account as directed by the board.~~

15 ~~(b) (I) Following the model of New York's petition for expedited~~
16 ~~waiver, the board shall immediately petition the FCC for a waiver from~~
17 ~~the auction rules that prohibit a state entity from applying for connect~~
18 ~~America fund phase II auction money to allow the board itself to allocate~~
19 ~~auction money for broadband deployment projects approved by the board.~~

20 ~~(II) After submitting the petition to the FCC, the board may:~~

21 ~~(A) File any additional documentation that the FCC requires of the~~
22 ~~board in considering the board's petition; and~~

23 ~~(B) Coordinate with the FCC to develop any conditions that the~~
24 ~~FCC might require to grant the petition.~~

25 ~~(III) If the FCC grants the board's petition and awards the board~~
26 ~~auction money:~~

27 ~~(A) The HCSM third-party contractor shall maintain any federal~~

1 money awarded from the auction in the separate account of the HCSM
2 described in subsection (10.5)(a) of this section; and

3 (B) The commission is authorized to disburse the federal money
4 in that account for broadband deployment grants as directed by the board.

5 (IV) The board may coordinate with the FCC to comply with any
6 conditions established by the FCC in granting the petition. If any such
7 FCC conditions impose project eligibility, application process, award
8 criteria, or other requirements that are distinct from the requirements set
9 forth in this section or established by the board pursuant to this section,
10 the commission may, by rule and in consultation with the board, establish
11 requirements that comply with the FCC's conditions; except that any
12 requirements established by the commission by rule pursuant to this
13 subsection (10.5)(b) must apply only to broadband deployment projects
14 that are eligible to receive auction money.

15 (c) As used in this subsection (10.5):

16 (I) "Auction rules" refers to the FCC's rules in 47 CFR 54.309 to
17 54.316, which rules concern the implementation of the connect America
18 fund phase II auction.

19 (II) "Connect America fund phase II auction" or "auction" refers
20 to a ten-year auction of federal money through which the FCC will
21 allocate money, by means of a competitive bidding process, to
22 telecommunications providers who commit to providing voice and
23 broadband service in high-cost areas of the nation in accordance with the
24 FCC's auction rules.

25 (III) "New York's petition for expedited waiver" refers to a
26 petition that the state of New York filed with the FCC seeking a waiver
27 from the FCC's auction rules with regard to the rules' limitation

1 prohibiting state entities from applying for federal money through the
2 auction. The FCC granted the waiver request on January 26, 2017, thus
3 authorizing the state of New York to directly receive and allocate auction
4 money to broadband projects within the state.

5 (10.6) (a) (I) Following the model of New York's petition for
6 expedited waiver, the board, on or before January 1, 2019, shall petition
7 the FCC for a waiver from the FCC's rules concerning the remote areas
8 fund to seek FCC authorization for the board to itself allocate remote
9 areas fund money for broadband deployment projects in Colorado.

10 (II) After submitting the petition to the FCC, the board may:

11 (A) File any additional documentation that the FCC requires of the
12 board in considering the board's petition; and

13 (B) Coordinate with the FCC to develop any conditions that the
14 FCC might require to grant the petition.

15 (b) If the FCC denies the board's petition, the board shall not file
16 a new petition or otherwise subsequently apply for money from the
17 remote areas fund.

18 (c) If the FCC grants the board's petition:

19 (i) The HCSM third-party contractor shall maintain any federal
20 money awarded through the remote areas fund in a separate account of
21 the HCSM that is dedicated to allocating the federal money in compliance
22 with any conditions established by the FCC in granting the petition;

23 (ii) The commission is authorized to disburse the federal money
24 in that account for broadband deployment grants as authorized by the
25 board and in compliance with any conditions established by the FCC in
26 granting the petition; and

27 (iii) The board is authorized to coordinate with the FCC to

1 comply with any conditions established by the FCC in granting the
2 petition. If any such FCC conditions impose project eligibility,
3 application process, award criteria, or other requirements that are distinct
4 from the requirements set forth in this section or established by the board
5 pursuant to this section, the commission may, by rule and in consultation
6 with the board, establish requirements that comply with the FCC's
7 conditions; except that any requirements established by the commission
8 by rule pursuant to this subsection (10.6) must apply only to broadband
9 deployment projects that are eligible to receive the federal remote areas
10 fund money.

11 (d) As used in this subsection (10.6):

12 (I) "Auction rules" refers to the FCC's rules in 47 CFR 54.309 to
13 54.316, which rules concern the implementation of the connect America
14 fund phase II auction.

15 (II) "Connect America fund" refers to the federal universal service
16 high-cost program that allows eligible telecommunications providers to
17 recover some of their costs from the federal government for providing
18 voice and broadband service in high-cost areas.

19 (III) "Connect America phase II auction" refers to a ten-year
20 auction of federal money through which the FCC will allocate money
21 through a competitive bidding process to telecommunications providers
22 who commit to providing voice and broadband service in high-cost areas
23 of the nation in accordance with the FCC's auction rules.

24 (IV) "New York's petition for expedited waiver" refers to a
25 petition that the state of New York filed with the FCC seeking a waiver
26 from the FCC's auction rules, which waiver the FCC granted on January
27 26, 2017.

1 ~~(V) "Remote areas fund" refers to a fund created by the FCC as~~
2 ~~part of its connect America fund to facilitate broadband deployment in~~
3 ~~extremely high-cost areas of the nation.~~

4 ~~(10.7) (15) The board shall make every effort to ensure that a~~
5 ~~project funded pursuant to this section does not overbuild any project~~
6 ~~supported or approved by the department of local affairs.~~

7 ~~(10.9) (16) As used in this section:~~

8 ~~(a) "BROADBAND" OR "BROADBAND SERVICE" HAS THE MEANING~~
9 ~~SET FORTH IN SECTION 40-15-102 (3.3).~~

10 ~~(b) "BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE" HAS THE MEANING SET~~
11 ~~FORTH IN SECTION 40-15-102 (3.5).~~

12 ~~(c) "BROADBAND NETWORK" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN~~
13 ~~SECTION 40-15-102 (3.7).~~

14 ~~(d) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION~~
15 ~~CREATED IN SECTION 40-2-101.~~

16 ~~(e) "COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIER" MEANS A LOCAL~~
17 ~~EXCHANGE PROVIDER THAT IS NOT THE INCUMBENT LOCAL EXCHANGE~~
18 ~~CARRIER IN AN IDENTIFIED EXCHANGE AREA.~~

19 ~~(f) "CRITICALLY UNSERVED", WHEN USED TO DESCRIBE A~~
20 ~~HOUSEHOLD OR AREA, MEANS A HOUSEHOLD OR AREA THAT LACKS ACCESS~~
21 ~~TO AT LEAST ONE NONSATELLITE PROVIDER OF BROADBAND SERVICE~~
22 ~~DELIVERED AT MEASURABLE SPEEDS OF EITHER AT LEAST TEN MEGABITS~~
23 ~~PER SECOND DOWNSTREAM AND ONE MEGABIT PER SECOND UPSTREAM OR~~
24 ~~AT MEASURABLE SPEEDS AT LEAST EQUAL TO ONE-HALF OF THE MINIMUM~~
25 ~~MEASURABLE SPEEDS THAT QUALIFY AS BROADBAND UNDER THE FCC~~
26 ~~DEFINITION AND ROUNDED UP TO THE NEAREST WHOLE NUMBER,~~
27 ~~WHICHEVER IS FASTER.~~

1 (g) [Formerly 40-15-102 (6.7)] "Eligible applicant" means an
2 applicant seeking grant funding for a proposed broadband project under
3 THIS section 40-15-509.5 with a sufficient business track record to
4 indicate that the applicant's operations will be sustainable after receiving
5 infrastructure support under THIS section. 40-15-509.5. The term is
6 limited to for-profit entities; except that a nonprofit telephone
7 cooperative, including its affiliates and subsidiaries, or a nonprofit rural
8 electric association that existed on May 10, 2014, qualifies as an "eligible
9 applicant". The term is not limited to a current recipient of high cost
10 support mechanism funds.

11 (h) "FCC" MEANS THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.

12 (i) "HIGH COST SUPPORT MECHANISM" OR "HCSM" MEANS THE
13 SUPPORT MECHANISM CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 40-15-208.

14 (a) (j) "Incumbent broadband provider" means a provider that
15 offers broadband internet service over a broadband network in an area
16 covered by an application filed pursuant to this section.

17 (k) "INCUMBENT PROVIDER" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN
18 SECTION 40-15-102 (9.5).

19 (l) [Formerly 40-15-102 (10.5)] "Infrastructure" means the
20 facilities or equipment used in the deployment of broadband service.

21 (m) [Formerly 40-15-102 (17.5)] (I) "Local entity" means elected
22 members of a county or municipal government OR THE ELECTED MEMBERS
23 OF A METROPOLITAN DISTRICT THAT LIES WHOLLY WITHIN THE
24 UNINCORPORATED PART OF A COUNTY.

25 (II) For purposes of AS USED IN this subsection (17.5); (16)(m):

26 (A) "METROPOLITAN DISTRICT" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN
27 SECTION 32-1-103 (10).

1 (B) "Municipal government" means a home rule or statutory city,
2 town, or city and county or a territorial charter city.

3 (b) (m) "Overbuild" or "overbuilding" means providing a
4 broadband network to a household or households that:

5 (I) At the time of application, either have access to a broadband
6 network or have received federal sources of high cost support or federal
7 broadband grants to provide access to a broadband network; and

8 (II) Account for twenty percent or more of the total household or
9 households to be served by a proposed wireless project.

10 (n) "UNSERVED AREA" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION
11 40-15-102 (32).

12 (H) (17) This section is repealed, effective September 1, 2024.
13 Before its THE repeal, the powers, duties, and functions of the board
14 regarding the deployment of broadband services into unserved areas are
15 scheduled for review in accordance with section 24-34-104.

16 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-72-202, **add**
17 **(6)(b)(XV)** as follows:

18 **24-72-202. Definitions.** As used in this part 2, unless the context
19 otherwise requires:

20 (6) (b) "Public records" does not include:

21 (XV) GRANULAR COVERAGE DATA, AS DEFINED IN AND SUBMITTED
22 TO THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PURSUANT TO SECTION
23 24-37.5-118 (9)(m).

24 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-15-102, **repeal**
25 **(6.5)** as follows:

26 **40-15-102. Definitions.** As used in this article 15, unless the
27 context otherwise requires:

1 (6.5) "Distributed equitably" means that distribution by the
2 commission of high cost support mechanism funding to eligible providers
3 shall be accomplished using regulatory principles that are neutral in their
4 effect, that do not favor one class of providers over another, and that do
5 not cause any eligible telecommunications provider to experience a
6 reduction in its high cost support mechanism support revenue requirement
7 based upon commission rules that are not applicable to other
8 telecommunications providers.

9 SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 6-26-101, amend (1)
10 as follows:

11 6-26-101. Complaints to federal trade commission - attorney
12 general to provide guidance. (1) The attorney general or the attorney
13 general's designee, in collaboration with the broadband deployment board
14 created in section 40-15-509.5 (5) 24-37.5-118, shall develop written
15 guidance for consumers seeking to file a complaint with the federal trade
16 commission to allege that an internet service provider, as defined in
17 section 40-15-209 (4)(b), has engaged in any practice that violates federal
18 law regarding interference with the open internet.

19 SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-15-208, amend
20 (2)(a)(I)(B) as follows:

21 40-15-208. High cost support mechanism - Colorado high cost
22 administration fund - creation - purpose - operation - rules - report
23 - repeal. (2) (a) (I) The commission is hereby authorized to establish a
24 mechanism for the support of universal service, also referred to in this
25 section as the "high cost support mechanism", which must operate in
26 accordance with rules adopted by the commission. The primary purpose
27 of the high cost support mechanism is to provide financial assistance as

1 a support mechanism to:

2 (B) Provide access to broadband service in unserved areas
3 pursuant to this section and section 40-15-509.5 24-37.5-118 only.

4 SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-15-209, amend
5 (1) introductory portion, (2)(a), and (2)(c) as follows:

6 40-15-209. Net neutrality conditions for internet service
7 providers to receive high cost support mechanism money -
8 definitions. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, an
9 internet service provider that is otherwise eligible to receive money
10 through a grant from the broadband deployment board pursuant to section
11 40-15-509.5 24-37.5-118 or through any state fund established to help
12 finance broadband deployment is not eligible to receive that money if the
13 internet service provider:

14 (2) (a) If the commission learns from the broadband deployment
15 board that a federal agency has issued a final order or entered into a
16 settlement or consent decree regarding, or a court of competent
17 jurisdiction has issued a final judgment against, an internet service
18 provider and that the board has determined from the order, decree, or
19 judgment that the internet service provider has engaged in conduct
20 specified in subsection (1) of this section, the commission shall issue a
21 written order to the internet service provider requiring the internet service
22 provider to fully refund any money that the internet service provider
23 received in the twenty-four months preceding the board's determination
24 from the high cost support mechanism pursuant to a grant awarded by the
25 broadband deployment board under section 40-15-509.5 24-37.5-118.

26 (c) The third-party contractor that maintains the high cost support
27 mechanism shall allocate any money refunded to the high cost support

1 mechanism pursuant to this subsection (2) to the high cost support
2 mechanism account dedicated to broadband deployment, which account
3 is described in section ~~40-15-509.5 (3)~~ 24-37.5-118 (3).

4 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-15-502, amend
5 (5)(a) as follows:

6 **40-15-502. Expressions of state policy. (5) Universal service**
7 **support mechanisms.** (a) In order to accomplish the goals of universal
8 basic service, universal access to advanced service under section
9 40-15-509.5 24-37.5-118, and any revision of the definition of basic
10 service under subsection (2) of this section, the commission shall create
11 a system of support mechanisms to assist in the provision of basic service
12 and advanced service in high-cost areas. The commission shall fund these
13 support mechanisms equitably and on a nondiscriminatory, competitively
14 neutral basis through assessments, which may include a rate element, on
15 all telecommunications providers in Colorado. A provider's eligibility to
16 receive support for basic service under the support mechanisms is
17 conditioned upon the provider's offering basic service throughout an
18 entire support area.

19 **SECTION 9. Repeal of provisions being relocated in this act.**
20 In Colorado Revised Statutes, repeal 40-15-102 (6.7), (10.5), and (17.5)
21 and 40-15-509.5.

22 **SECTION 10. Applicability.** This act applies to applications
23 filed on or after the effective date of this act.

24 **SECTION 11. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
25 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.