

HOUSE BILL NO. 2741

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON.

6818H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the Missouri rural broadband development fund.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 620, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 620.2610, to read as follows:

2 **620.2610. 1. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Missouri Rural**
3 **Broadband Development Fund", which shall consist of appropriated moneys, gifts,**
4 **contributions, grants, or bequests made to the fund. The state treasurer shall be custodian**
5 **of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may**
6 **approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation,**
7 **moneys in the fund shall be used solely for the administration of this section.**

7 **2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys**
8 **remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the**
9 **general revenue fund.**

10 **3. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other**
11 **funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited**
12 **to the fund.**

13 **4. The Missouri rural broadband development fund shall be used by the**
14 **department of economic development with the primary goal of developing broadband**
15 **internet access in rural areas of the state. For the purposes of this section, "rural areas"**
16 **shall mean any county except a county of the first classification with a charter form of**
17 **government or a city not within a county. The department of economic development shall**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 establish a committee consisting of no fewer than three but no more than five persons for
19 the purpose of reviewing grant applications. Such committee shall have the power to
20 disperse broadband infrastructure development grants. The department shall establish
21 rules of procedure for the committee.

22 5. Applications for broadband infrastructure development grants shall be
23 submitted for a rural regional development group only by a regional planning commission
24 created under chapter 251 or other legally created regional planning commission. A
25 regional planning commission may submit applications on behalf of more than one rural
26 regional development group; except that, a regional planning commission shall not submit
27 an application on behalf of a group that the regional planning commission does not
28 recognize as the economic development authority for the county that the authority
29 represents.

30 6. A rural regional development group shall not qualify for a broadband
31 infrastructure development grant if:

32 (1) The group's region includes a county outside the state of Missouri or portion
33 of another state; or

34 (2) The group maintains an operating budget greater than two hundred fifty
35 thousand dollars.

36 7. The regional planning commission may charge an application fee for the grants
37 developed under this section. The regional planning commission shall be allowed to claim
38 reimbursement from the grant recipients for actual costs of administering the grants.

39 8. A single grant shall not exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars. Each of the
40 nineteen regions of the state represented by a regional planning commission created under
41 chapter 251 or other legally created regional planning commission shall not receive more
42 than two grants per region annually.

43 9. Grants provided under this section shall be distributed based on a rural regional
44 development group's years in operation. The eligible amount shall be:

45 (1) For a group in operation two years or more, on a matching basis of three dollars
46 of state funds for every one dollar of funds provided or raised by the rural regional
47 development group, including the value of in-kind services, supplies, or equipment; and

48 (2) For groups in operation less than two years, on a matching basis of one dollar
49 of state funds for every one dollar of funds provided or raised by the rural regional
50 development group, including the value of in-kind services, supplies, or equipment.

51 10. The grant recipient shall annually report the allocation of the grants and the
52 purposes for which the funding was used to the governor; the director of the department
53 of economic development; the senate committee on commerce, consumer protection, energy

54 **and the environment; the house committee on economic development; the house committee**
55 **on telecommunications; and any successor committees thereto.**

56 **11. The department of economic development may promulgate rules and**
57 **regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that**
58 **term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this**
59 **section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions**
60 **of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are**
61 **nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to**
62 **chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are**
63 **subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule**
64 **proposed or adopted after August 28, 2016, shall be invalid and void.**

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