

HB 2741 -- RURAL BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT

SPONSOR: Johnson

This bill establishes the Missouri Rural Broadband Development Fund. This fund consists of appropriated money, gifts, contributions, grants, or bequests made to the fund. The fund is to be used for the development of broadband access in rural areas of the state. For the purposes of the bill "rural areas" are defined as any county except chartered counties of the first classification. The bill directs the Department of Economic Development to establish rules and regulations as well as a committee to evaluate the proposals for a grant submitted by each regional planning commission and to disburse grants in accordance with the purpose of the fund. However, a single grant may not exceed \$150,000.