

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2726

## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS.

5602H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the office of broadband development.

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*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 known as section 620.065, to read as follows:

- 620.065. 1. There is hereby established in the department of economic development the "Office of Broadband Development", which shall have the purpose and duty of working to expand and accelerate the deployment of broadband internet access throughout the state and finding solutions to problems encountered by any person or entity while attempting to expand broadband internet access in Missouri.**
- 2. The office of broadband development shall:**
- (1) Gather and report data regarding:**
    - (a) The availability of and subscription to broadband services for both residential and nonresidential customers, including at the community level;**
    - (b) Data speed availability and usage; and**
    - (c) Prices charged for broadband services to residential and nonresidential subscribers including, but not limited to, one-time fees, monthly fees, termination fees, equipment fees, and other fees;**
  - (2) Incorporate the goal of digital equality in its fulfillment of responsibilities, which shall be defined as the condition where all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy;**

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           **(3) Coordinate with the consumer protection division of the attorney general's**  
19 **office to ensure consumers are protected from:**

20           **(a) An internet service provider denying service, denying access, or otherwise**  
21 **discriminating against subscribers, channel users, or any other persons on the basis of**  
22 **age, ethnicity, exercise of speech protected by Amendment I of the Constitution of the**  
23 **United States, national origin, physical disability, political affiliation, political views,**  
24 **race, religion, or sex;**

25           **(b) An internet service provider not providing subscribers at least thirty days**  
26 **advanced written notice of any changes to rates or charges, including the expiration of**  
27 **any promotion or special pricing that would result in an increase in the subscribers**  
28 **billing or cost of service; or**

29           **(c) An internet service provider not informing subscribers and providing written**  
30 **notice to subscribers of disputes regarding interrupted or substandard service or billing**  
31 **issues; and**

32           **(4) Perform any and all other activities in furtherance of the office's purpose and**  
33 **duty.**

34           **3. The department of economic development shall provide administrative**  
35 **support and staff as deemed necessary to assist the office of broadband development.**

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