



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Bryce Edgmon

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**HB363 - "An Act establishing the office of broadband; creating the broadband parity adjustment fund; establishing the Statewide Broadband Advisory Board; and providing for an effective date."**

HB363 positions Alaska to take advantage of the unprecedented opportunity of the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA) to extend broadband access throughout Alaska. The bill text aligns with the IIJA and the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Final Report.

**Establishes the Office of Broadband in the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development.**

- Establishing the Office of Broadband enables the State to participate in the new IIJA programs to create maximum benefits for Alaskans.
- The IIJA requires states to conduct comprehensive planning and outreach and administer federal funds over the next 5-10 years.
- The IIJA funds the Office initially with a \$5M allocation for planning and outreach activities, then through 2% of the funds allocated to Alaska over the term of the program.
- The Office will support broadband projects to expand access, support improved affordability, encourage local workforce development, and streamline permitting to support broadband deployment.

**Establishes the Broadband Parity Adjustment**

- HB363 creates a separate fund in the treasury to help offset the costs of broadband service for consumers but is not a dedicated fund.
- The fund consists of money appropriated by the legislature, gifts, bequests, contributions from other sources, federal money, and interest earned on the fund balance.
- The Office will develop regulations and administer the Broadband Parity Adjustment.

**Establishes the Statewide Broadband Advisory Board**

- A multi-stakeholder Board will provide input, recommendations, and advice to assist the Office in pursuing its work.
- The Board includes stakeholders from education, commerce, local government, Native organizations, healthcare, business, and the broadband industry and is not compensated.

References:

Governor's Task Force on Broadband Final Report [www.gov.alaska.gov/broadband](http://www.gov.alaska.gov/broadband)

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Guidebook <https://www.build.gov/>