



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Bryce Edgmon

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Sectional Analysis

HOUSE BILL NO.363 (I&C)

Section 1: Creates a new section, AS 44.33.910, to establish the Office of Broadband in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) and details the Office of Broadband's purpose, powers, and duties, to include:

1. Expand broadband access and digital equity in the state through federal, tribal, and local partnerships, while maintaining technological neutrality, with prioritization of service expansion in the following order: unserved areas, underserved areas, and anchor institutions
2. Develop a procedure for adoption of broadband service maps that incorporates the forthcoming Federal Communications Commission (FCC) maps in accordance with the Federal Broadband DATA Act, streamline permitting processes, and encourage development of in-state workforce
3. Establish a grant program and broadband parity adjustments:
 - a. AS 44.33.915 establishes the Broadband Parity Adjustment Fund (BPAF);
 - b. The BPAF is a separate fund in the treasury which allows for grants to offset the costs of broadband services for eligible consumers;
 - c. Makes grants to eligible beneficiaries to improve the performance of and access to broadband across the state;
 - d. Funds can come from money appropriated by the legislature, federal funds, and interest earned on the fund balance;
4. Review and consideration of the recommendations of the Statewide Broadband Advisory Board (The SBAB) established under AS 44.33.920. The board is:
 - a. Composed of 9 members appointed by the Governor, and commissioners from DCCED and the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) and two ex-officio, non-voting members from the legislature appointed by presiding officers
 - b. Created to provide an inclusive process for a broad number of stakeholder groups including tribal, local government, school districts, The University, health care sector, industry, and consumers
 - c. Directs the SBAB to create a broadband technical working group

Section 2: This Act sunsets on June 30, 2030

Section 3: Establishes an immediate effective date under AS 01.10.070(c)