



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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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."

Explanation of Changes in CSHB363B (L&C)

CS for House Bill 363
Broadband: Office, Grants, Parity

The CS for HB363 makes changes that reflect the recommendations of the 2021 Broadband Task Force and ensure that these recommendations will guide policy.

Technically, the changes are as follows:

- Page 1, line 12:
The word 'tribal' was added following the word 'federal.' Lines 11 and 12 now read: "expand broadband access and digital equity in the state through federal, tribal and local partnerships."
- Page 4, line 19:
The words "to three-year terms" were added following the word "governor." This change establishes that members of the Statewide Broadband Advisory Board will serve three-year terms.
- Page 4, line 18:
Deletes the word "and," and inserts "(3) two members from the legislature, serving as ex officio, nonvoting members by the presiding officers, ensuring legislative participation and oversight of the SBAB. The subsection listing the nine additional members appointed by the governor is renumbered as "(4)" and the language in the bill is changed to reflect that members of the SBAB shall elect a chair from among the voting members of the SBAB.
- Page 2, line 31: Delete "(1)"
Page 3, line 4: Delete ";" and insert "."
Page 3, lines 5-11: Delete all material
Page 4, line 19, following "members":
Insert: ", at least two of whom live in an unserved or underserved area,"
Page 5, following line 1:
Insert a new section to read:
"Sec. 44.33.930. Definitions. In AS 44.33.910 - 44.33.930,

- (1) "unserved area" means an area that does not have broadband speeds of at least 25 Megabits per second downstream and at least 3 Megabits per second upstream with a latency sufficient to support real-time interactive applications; and
- (2) "underserved area" means an area that does not have broadband speeds of at least 100 Megabits per second downstream and at least 20 Megabits per second upstream with a latency sufficient to support real-time interactive applications."

Page 5, line 2: Delete "and 44.33.920" and insert "44.33.920, and 44.33.930"

These changes establish that at least two members of the SBAB must live in an unserved or underserved area and creates a new definitions section for the terms 'unserved' and 'underserved.'

- Page 4, following line 28:
 - Insert a new subsection to read:
 - "(d) The advisory board shall establish a broadband technical working group to provide technical recommendations to the advisory board. The advisory board shall appoint individuals to the technical working group who collectively have expertise in the different technologies that provide broadband service, and manage and deliver projects in the state. The broadband industry representative on the advisory board shall also serve on the broadband technical working group."
- Page 2, line 25, following "partners":
 - Inserts the words "through the University of Alaska, technical, vocational, or trade schools, and apprenticeship programs"