

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## Senator Mia Costello District K - West Anchorage

### Senate Bill 234—Broadband: Office, Grants, Parity

#### Sectional Analysis: Version A

*"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."*

#### **Section 1 on Page 1, Line 5 - AS 44.33**

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:

- Expand broadband access and digital equity in the state through federal and local partnerships, while maintaining technological neutrality, with prioritization of service expansion in the following order: unserved areas, underserved areas, and anchor institutions.
- 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, and a process to challenge the accuracy of broadband service maps used to determine availability and adequacy of service.
- Streamline permitting processes and encourage development of in-state workforce to facilitate expeditious and sustainable infrastructure deployment.
- Establish a grant program and broadband parity adjustments.

#### **Page 3, Line 12 - AS 44.33.915**

- Establishes the Broadband Parity Adjustment Fund (BPAF)
- The BPAF is a separate fund in the treasury which allows for grants to offset the costs of broadband services for eligible consumers.
- Funds can come from money appropriated by the legislature, federal funds, and interest earned on the fund balance.

**Page 4, Line 5 – AS 44.33.920**

- Establishes the Statewide Broadband Advisory Board.
- The purpose of the Board is to provide input, recommendations, and advice regarding state broadband policy, goals, and objectives, as well as project selection, mapping and data collection, and progress made on the recommendations of the Governor’s Task Force on Broadband.
- Composed of eleven members: the commissioners from DCCED and the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED), and nine members appointed by the governor representing:
  - A local government
  - An Alaska Native Corporation
  - A tribal government
  - A school district
  - The University of Alaska
  - The health care community
  - The broadband industry
  - A broadband consumer

**Section 2 on Page 5, Line 2**

This Act sunsets on June 30, 2030

**Section 3 on Page 5, Line 3**

Establishes an immediate effective date under AS 01.10.070(c)