



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## Sectional Analysis

CSHB 363(FIN)

**"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:

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), provide a process to challenge adoption of maps, including public notice and comment period, develop a procedure for issuance of grants, streamline permitting processes, administer and set criteria for broadband parity adjustment program, and encourage development of in-state workforce

**AS 44.33.915** establishes a Broadband Parity Adjustment Fund

1. Makes grants to eligible beneficiaries to improve the performance of and access to broadband across the state;
2. Funds can come from money appropriated by the legislature, federal funds, and interest earned on the fund balance;
3. Allows for grants to offset the costs of broadband services for eligible consumers

**AS 44.33.920** creates the Statewide Broadband Advisory Board to provide technology-neutral input, recommendations, and advice regarding state broadband policy, goals, and objectives; project processes and criteria for project selection; mapping, data collection and sharing efforts; and progress made on the Governor's Task Force on Broadband's recommendations.

- a. Composed of 9 public members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms, as well as 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

**Sec. 44.33.930.** Definitions.

1. “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
2. “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

**Section 2:**

This Act sunsets on June 30, 2030

**Section 3:**

Establishes an immediate effective date under AS 01.10.070(c)