



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0143/P5
AJM:amn&wlj

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 196.504 (1) (a); *to amend* 20.155 (1) (q),
2 196.504 (2) (a) and 196.504 (2) (c); and *to create* 196.504 (1) (ab), 196.504 (1)
3 (ad), 196.504 (1) (c) and 196.504 (2) (e) of the statutes; **relating to:** broadband
4 expansion grants and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill is explained in the NOTES provided by the Joint Legislative Council in the bill.

For further information see the ***state and local*** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This bill was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council's Study Committee on Rural Broadband.

5 **SECTION 1.** 20.155 (1) (q) of the statutes is amended to read:
6 20.155 (1) (q) *Universal telecommunications service.* From the universal
7 service fund, the amounts in the schedule for the promotion of universal

1 telecommunications service for the purposes specified in s. 196.218 (5) (a) 1., 4., 8.
2 and, 9., and 10., except that, in a fiscal year, no more than \$1,500,000 may be
3 expended for the purpose under s. 196.218 (5) (a) 10. and no more than the amount
4 in the schedule less \$1,500,000 may be expended for the other purposes under this
5 paragraph.

6 **SECTION 2.** 196.504 (1) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 196.504 (1) (ac), and
7 196.504 (1) (ac) 3., as renumbered, is amended to read:

8 196.504 (1) (ac) 3. A political subdivision or school district that submits an
9 application in partnership with an eligible applicant under subd. 1. or 2.

10 **SECTION 3.** 196.504 (1) (ab) of the statutes is created to read:

11 196.504 (1) (ab) “Economic development” has the meaning given in s. 196.796
12 (1) (c).

13 **SECTION 4.** 196.504 (1) (ad) of the statutes is created to read:

14 196.504 (1) (ad) “Fixed wireless service” has the meaning given in s. 77.51
15 (3rn), except that it does not include mobile wireless service, as defined in s. 77.51
16 (7k).

17 **SECTION 5.** 196.504 (1) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

18 196.504 (1) (c) “Unserved area” means an area of this state that is not served
19 by an Internet service provider offering Internet service that is all of the following:

20 1. Fixed wireless service or wired service.

21 2. Provided at actual speeds of at least 15 percent of the upload and download
22 speeds for high-speed, switched, broadband telecommunications capability as
23 designated by the federal communications commission in its inquiries regarding
24 advanced telecommunications capability under 47 USC 1302 (b).

25 3. Offered at a price that is reasonable, as determined by the commission.

1 **SECTION 6.** 196.504 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 196.504 (2) (a) To make broadband expansion grants to eligible applicants for
3 the purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in underserved areas
4 designated under par. (d). Grants awarded under this section shall be paid from the
5 appropriation under s. 20.155 ~~(3)~~ ~~(#)~~ (1) (q). In each fiscal year, the total amount of
6 the grants may not exceed \$1,500,000.

7 **SECTION 7.** 196.504 (2) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 196.504 (2) (c) To establish criteria for evaluating applications and awarding
9 grants under this section. The criteria shall prohibit grants that have the effect of
10 subsidizing the expenses of a provider of telecommunications service, as defined in
11 s. 182.017 (1g) (cq), or the monthly bills of customers of those providers. The criteria
12 shall give priority to projects that include matching funds, that involve
13 public-private partnerships, that affect areas ~~with no broadband service providers~~
14 unserved areas, that are scalable, that promote economic development, that do not
15 duplicate broadband service infrastructure, that will not result in delaying the
16 provision of broadband service to areas neighboring areas to be served by the
17 proposed project, or that affect a large geographic area or a large number of
18 underserved individuals or communities. When evaluating grant applications
19 under this section, the commission shall consider the impacts of the proposed
20 projects on the ability of individuals to access health care services from home and the
21 cost of those services, and the ability of students to access educational opportunities
22 from home.

23 **SECTION 8.** 196.504 (2) (e) of the statutes is created to read:

24 196.504 (2) (e) To designate areas of the state as unserved areas.

