Amends Title [NO] moves to amend the bill on page 237, lines 15-16 by inserting between those lines the following new section to read:

"EXPAND STATEWIDE BROADBAND ACCESS

SECTION 15.14.(a) Notwithstanding G.S. 143B-472.127, of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Commerce, eight million dollars ($8,000,000) shall be allocated to the Rural Economic Development Division to establish Broadband Deployment Grants for last-mile or middle-mile infrastructure projects. Grants are to be technology-neutral. Projects must deploy technology with scalable speeds up to 100Mbps download for wireline and 25Mpbs download for fixed wireless. Applicants must have completed a community broadband plan. Eligible applicants include:

1. First Priority: A city, village, town, or county that has established a partnership or arrangement with a qualified organization or qualified Internet Service Provider that is currently providing internet service at the time of enactment.

2. Second Priority: A telephone (TMC) or electrical membership cooperative (EMC), Internet Service Provider (ISP), or Microelectronics Center of North Carolina (MCNC).

SECTION 15.14.(b) Notwithstanding G.S. 143B-472.127, of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Commerce, three million dollars ($3,000,000) shall be allocated to the Rural Economic Development Division to establish Network Design and Planning Grants to allow the state to determine the specific location of existing broadband infrastructure through asset inventories and studies that determine the location of current fiber infrastructure, provider points of presence, middle-mile assets and build-out needs. Eligible applicants include:

1. Counties, units of local government, regional councils of government, or regional consortiums or partnerships.

2. MCNC or electrical membership cooperatives (EMCs).

SECTION 15.14.(c) Notwithstanding G.S. 143B-472.127, of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Commerce, one million dollars ($1,000,000) shall be allocated to the Rural Economic Development Division to Community Planning Grants to identify existing infrastructure and gaps in coverage to assist the local government in fostering
new broadband deployments; to produce plans that define local broadband needs, goals and to encourage adoption of identified best practices by participating municipalities and organizations. Applicants shall be subject to a match requirement based upon level of distress using the Department of Commerce’s 2016 County Tier Designations. Matching funds can be from public or private dollars. Eligible applicants include:

1. A North Carolina city, village, town, or county.
2. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, including a cooperative.

SECTION 15.14.(d) Of the funds transferred from the Utility Account (24609-2568) to the Expanded Gas Products Service to Agriculture Fund (24609-2539) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the sum of two million dollars ($2,000,000) shall be transferred to the Rural Economic Development Division (14600-1534) for the purposes provided in this section; and further moves to amend the bill on page 4, line 32, by reducing the amount by ten million dollars ($10,000,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year; and further moves to amend the bill on page 3, line 8, by increasing the amount by ten million dollars ($10,000,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year; and by adjusting the appropriate totals accordingly.

SIGNED ________________________________
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED ________________________________
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED ___________ FAILED _____________ TABLED ___________