Amends Title [NO]
Sixth Edition
Representative Garrison

moves to amend the bill on page 239, lines 32-33, by inserting between the lines the following language to read:

"ENHANCE STATEWIDE BROADBAND ACCESS"

SECTION 15.7A.(a) There is created the NC Broadband Reserve (Reserve), a statewide special, nonreverting reserve to be administratively housed with the Office of State Budget and Management. Notwithstanding G.S. 143B-472.127, of the funds appropriated in this act to the Reserve, the Office shall use two million dollars ($2,000,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and six million five hundred thousand dollars ($6,500,000) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year for grants and other uses described in this section, as governed by agreements entered into by the Department of Commerce. Moneys allocated pursuant to this subsection shall be used 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 25Mbps 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 15.7A.(b) Notwithstanding G.S. 143B-472.127, of the funds appropriated in this act to the Reserve, the Office shall use eight hundred thousand dollars ($800,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and two million five hundred thousand dollars ($2,500,000) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year 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 15.7A.(c) Notwithstanding G.S. 143B-472.127, of the funds appropriated in this act to the Reserve, the Office shall use four hundred thousand dollars ($400,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and one million dollars ($1,000,000) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to provide 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 15.7A.(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act to the contrary, no funds shall be appropriated or allocated for the creation of an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system for either year of the fiscal biennium."

SECTION 15.7A.(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, grants made through the Reserve shall be budgeted and funded on a cash flow basis. The Office of State Budget and Management shall periodically transfer funds from the Reserve to the Department of Commerce in an amount sufficient to satisfy grant obligations and amounts to be transferred pursuant to this section to be paid during the fiscal year."; and on page 4, line 36, by deleting "Enterprise Resource Planning" and substituting "NC Broadband Reserve";

and on page 349, lines 1-11, by deleting the lines;

and by adjusting the appropriate totals accordingly.

SIGNED ____________________________________________

Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED ____________________________________________

Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

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