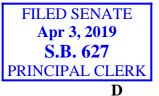
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2019



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SENATE BILL DRS45236-MQ-96

Short Title:Expand GREAT Grant Program.(Public)Sponsors:Senators deViere, Woodard, and Foushee (Primary Sponsors).Referred to:

| 1 | | | A BILL TO BE ENTITLED |
|----|---|--------|---|
| 2 | AN ACT | Т ТО | ALLOW CITIES AND COUNTIES TO RECEIVE BROADBAND |
| 3 | INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS UNDER THE GROWING RURAL ECONOMIES WITH | | |
| 4 | ACCE | SS TO |) TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM. |
| 5 | The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts: | | |
| 6 | | SEC' | TION 1. G.S. 143B-1373 reads as rewritten: |
| 7 | "§ 143B-1 | 373. (| Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) program. |
| 8 | (a) | As us | sed in this section, the following definitions apply: |
| 9 | | (1) | Agriculture. – Activities defined in G.S. 106-581.1. |
| 10 | | (2) | Broadband service. – For the purposes of this section, terrestrially deployed |
| 11 | | | Internet access service with transmission speeds of at least 10 megabits per |
| 12 | | | second (Mbps) download and at least one megabit per second upload (10:1). |
| 13 | | (3) | Coastal Plain Region The portion of the State lying east of the eastern |
| 14 | | | boundaries of Franklin, Lee, Moore, Wake, and Warren Counties. |
| 15 | | (4) | Cooperative An electric membership corporation, organized pursuant to |
| 16 | | | Article 2 of Chapter 117 of the General Statutes, or a telephone membership |
| 17 | | | corporation, organized pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 117 of the General |
| 18 | | | Statutes. |
| 19 | | (5) | Eligible economically distressed county A county designated as a |
| 20 | | | development tier one area, as defined in G.S. 143B-473.08. |
| 21 | | (6) | Eligible project. – An eligible project is a discrete and specific project located |
| 22 | | | in an unserved area of an economically distressed county seeking to provide |
| 23 | | | broadband service to homes, businesses, and community anchor points not |
| 24 | | | currently served. Eligible projects do not include middle mile, backhaul, and |
| 25 | | | other similar projects not directed at broadband service to end users. |
| 26 | | (7) | Eligible recipient Eligible grant recipients are cities, counties, private |
| 27 | | | providers of broadband services, including cooperatively organized entities, |
| 28 | | | or any partnerships formed between <u>cities, counties, cooperatively organized</u> |
| 29 | | | entities, private providers, or any combination thereof, on or after January 1, |
| 30 | | | 2018. |
| 31 | | ••• | |
| 32 | (b) | | Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology Fund is established as a |
| 33 | special revenue fund in the Department of Information Technology. The Secretary may award | | |
| 34 | grants from the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology Fund to eligible recipients | | |

grants from the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology Fund to eligible recipients for eligible projects. The funds shall be used by the recipient to pay for infrastructure costs associated with an eligible project. <u>Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a city</u>



General Assembly Of North Carolina

- 1 or county may utilize grant funds received under this section to partner with a private provider
- 2 of broadband services, including cooperatively organized entities in connection with an eligible
- 3 <u>project.</u> State funds appropriated to this Fund shall be considered an information technology
- 4 project within the meaning of G.S. 143C-1-2.
- 5"

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SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.