

House File 2324 - Introduced

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BY SORENSEN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a satellite internet grant program.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 8B.4, Code 2022, is amended by adding the
2 following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 20. Administer the satellite internet
4 grant program pursuant to section 8B.11A.

5 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 8B.11A **Satellite internet grant**
6 **program — fund.**

7 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise
8 requires:

9 a. *“Initial hardware costs”* means manufacturing and
10 equipment expenses generated from accessing a satellite.

11 b. *“Person”* means the same as defined in section 4.1.

12 c. *“Satellite”* means electronic infrastructure equipment
13 that facilitates broadband service that revolves around the
14 earth at atmospheric altitudes between two hundred kilometers
15 and two thousand kilometers.

16 2. The office shall establish and administer a satellite
17 internet grant program. The purpose of the program is to
18 facilitate broadband service to residents of the state through
19 a satellite connection.

20 3. A person may apply to the office for a grant to cover
21 up to the initial hardware costs under this section by filing
22 a completed application. The office shall develop a grant
23 application form and establish criteria for the awarding of
24 grants, which shall include the following:

25 a. Broadband services shall be facilitated where there is
26 no broadband currently available. The applicant must submit
27 satisfactory proof of the lack of service.

28 b. A statement of initial hardware costs for the satellite
29 project.

30 c. The satellite connection shall facilitate internet
31 service that provides a minimum download speed of one hundred
32 megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of twenty
33 megabits per second.

34 d. Other performance-based standards and criteria deemed
35 appropriate by the office.

1 4. A satellite internet grant fund is established in
2 the state treasury under the authority of the office. The
3 fund shall consist of moneys appropriated to and obtained or
4 accepted by the office. Moneys in the fund are appropriated
5 to the office to be used to provide grants to communications
6 service providers pursuant to this section. Notwithstanding
7 section 8.33, moneys in the fund that remain unencumbered or
8 unobligated at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert
9 but shall remain available for the purposes designated in the
10 following fiscal year.

11 EXPLANATION

12 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
13 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

14 This bill creates a satellite internet grant program
15 under the office of the chief information officer to provide
16 broadband connection to Iowans with limited or nonexistent
17 internet connectivity.

18 The bill defines "initial hardware costs" to mean
19 manufacturing and equipment costs generated from accessing a
20 satellite. The bill defines "satellite" to mean an electronic
21 infrastructure orbiting the earth at atmospheric altitudes
22 between 200 kilometers and 2,000 kilometers that facilitates
23 broadband service.

24 The bill provides that a person may apply for grants
25 administered by the office to cover up to the initial hardware
26 costs for satellite interconnection if certain criteria are
27 satisfied. Criteria for awarding a grant include providing
28 broadband service to areas with no broadband, a statement
29 of the initial hardware costs for the satellite project,
30 interconnection facilitating internet service that provides
31 certain minimum download and upload speeds, and other standards
32 and criteria as determined by the office.