

Senate Study Bill 3034 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON COMMERCE BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON SCHULTZ)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to broadband grant eligibility for public
2 utilities and affiliates of public utilities in projects
3 with communications service providers and including
4 applicability provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 8B.11, subsection 3, Code 2022, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. Communications service providers may apply to the office
4 for a grant pursuant to [this section](#) for the installation of
5 broadband infrastructure that facilitates broadband service in
6 targeted service areas. A public utility as defined in section
7 476.1 or its affiliate that supports a communication service
8 provider's project by making available to the communication
9 service provider infrastructure that the public utility or
10 affiliate owns or constructs may apply with a communication
11 service provider for a grant pursuant to this section and may
12 receive grant funds. For purposes of calculating amounts
13 under subsections 5 and 6, project costs of the public utility
14 or affiliate and the communications service provider shall
15 be aggregated. The office shall make available a public
16 internet site identifying all publicly available information
17 contained in the applications and any results of performance
18 testing conducted after the project is completed. The office
19 shall devote one full-time equivalent position to evaluate
20 applications submitted under [this section](#) and provide technical
21 assistance to communications service providers in completing
22 applications for federal funds, or any other funds from any
23 public or private sources, related to improving broadband
24 infrastructure.

25 Sec. 2. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to grant
26 applications filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

27 EXPLANATION

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

30 This bill relates to broadband grant eligibility for public
31 utilities and affiliates of public utilities.

32 Current law authorizes communication service providers to
33 apply for broadband grants through the empower rural Iowa
34 program. The bill provides that a public utility or an
35 affiliate of a public utility can apply for empower rural

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1 Iowa grants with communications service providers supporting
2 their broadband project costs. Costs of the public utility
3 or the public utility affiliate will be combined with the
4 communications service provider for purposes of determining
5 grant amount limits. The bill's provisions are applicable to
6 grant applications filed on or after the bill's effective date.