
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2786 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SNYDER, MADDEN, DAVANZO, DONATUCCI, KINSEY, JAMES,
HILL-EVANS, HARKINS, MURT, McNEILL, DALEY, BERNSTINE,
LONGIETTI, CALTAGIRONE, SAPPEY, PICKETT, WILLIAMS, DAVIDSON,
ULLMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, SANCHEZ, FREEMAN, PASHINSKI, HOWARD,
McCARTER, READSHAW, ECKER, NEILSON, M. K. KELLER, STRUZZI,
HOHENSTEIN, BOBACK, CIRESI, ROEBUCK, McCLINTON, DEASY AND
DELLOSO, AUGUST 13, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, AUGUST 13, 2020

AN ACT

1 Providing for the expansion of broadband access in underserved
2 areas; establishing the Underserved and Unserved Broadband
3 Deployment Grant Program and the Underserved and Unserved
4 Broadband Deployment Fund; and transferring funds from the
5 COVID-19 Response Restricted Account.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Underserved
10 and Unserved Broadband Deployment Act.

11 Section 2. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
13 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
14 context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
16 Development of the Commonwealth.

17 "Fund." The Underserved and Unserved Broadband Deployment

1 Fund established under section 4(a).

2 "Grant program." The Underserved and Unserved Broadband
3 Deployment Grant Program under section 3(a).

4 Section 3. Underserved and Unserved Broadband Deployment Grant
5 Program.

6 (a) Establishment.--The Underserved and Unserved Broadband
7 Deployment Grant Program is established within the department to
8 expand broadband access in underserved areas.

9 (b) Award of grants.--The department shall award grants with
10 money from the fund to applicants that:

11 (1) Are a municipality or resident of this Commonwealth
12 located in an underserved area, determined by the department.

13 (2) Show a lack of broadband access and demonstrate a
14 need for broadband access.

15 (c) Application.--The application for a grant under the
16 grant program shall be in a form and manner prescribed by the
17 department.

18 (d) Initial review.--Within one year of the effective date
19 of this section, the department shall coordinate with the
20 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, municipalities, counties
21 and other stakeholders to determine how much money is needed to
22 continue to expand the grant program and prepare a report which
23 shall be submitted to the following:

24 (1) The Governor.

25 (2) The General Assembly.

26 (e) Annual review.--The department shall conduct an annual
27 review of the grant program and shall prepare a report which
28 shall be submitted to the following:

29 (1) The Governor.

30 (2) The General Assembly.

1 Section 4. The Underserved and Unserved Broadband Deployment
2 Fund.

3 (a) Establishment.--The Underserved and Unserved Broadband
4 Deployment Fund is established as a special fund in the State
5 Treasury. Money in the fund shall be appropriated to the
6 department on a continuing basis for purposes of the grant
7 program.

8 (b) Transfer from COVID-19 Response Restricted Account.--The
9 sum of \$50,000,000 is transferred from the COVID-19 Response
10 Restricted Account to the fund.

11 (c) Additional money.--Money available to the fund shall
12 include appropriations and transfers from the General Fund,
13 special funds, Federal money and other sources of revenue made
14 available to the fund.

15 Section 5. Effective date.

16 This act shall take effect in 60 days.