H-2179.1

THIRD SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1498

State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Hudgins, Dye, Tharinger, Maycumber, DeBolt, Wylie, Orcutt, Chapman, Kloba, Tarleton, Frame, Appleton, Smith, Shewmake, Doglio, Paul, Reeves, Stanford, Valdez, Leavitt, Macri, and Steele; by request of Office of the Governor)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/19.

AN ACT Relating to expanding affordable, resilient broadband 1 2 service to enable economic development, public safety, health care, 3 and education in Washington's communities; amending RCW 54.16.330, 53.08.370, 80.36.630, 80.36.650, 80.36.660, 80.36.670, 80.36.680, 4 80.36.690, and 80.36.700; amending 2013 2nd sp.s. c 8 ss 212 and 303 5 (uncodified); reenacting and amending RCW 43.84.092; 6 adding new 7 sections to chapter 43.330 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 43.155 8 RCW; creating new sections; repealing RCW 43.330.415, 43.330.418, and 80.36.620; providing expiration dates; and declaring an emergency. 9

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

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<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 1. The legislature finds that:

12 (1) Access to broadband is critical to full participation in13 society and the modern economy;

14 (2) Increasing broadband access to unserved areas of the state 15 serves a fundamental governmental purpose and function and provides a 16 public benefit to the citizens of Washington by enabling access to 17 health care, education, and essential services, providing economic 18 opportunities, and enhancing public health and safety;

(3) Achieving affordable and quality broadband access for all
 Washingtonians will require additional and sustained investment,

1 research, local and community participation, and partnerships between
2 private, public, and nonprofit entities;

3 (4) The federal communications commission has adopted a national
4 broadband plan that includes recommendations directed to federal,
5 state, and local governments, including recommendations to:

6 (a) Design policies to ensure robust competition and maximize 7 consumer welfare, innovation, and investment;

8 (b) Ensure efficient allocation and management of assets that the 9 government controls or influences to encourage network upgrades and 10 competitive entry;

11 (c) Reform current universal service mechanisms to support 12 deployment in high-cost areas, ensuring that low-income Americans can 13 afford broadband, and supporting efforts to boost adoption and 14 utilization; and

(d) Reform laws, policies, standards, and incentives to maximize the benefits of broadband in sectors that government influences significantly, such as public education, health care, and government operations;

19 (5) Extensive investments have been made by the 20 telecommunications industry and the public sector, as well as 21 policies and programs adopted to provide affordable broadband 22 services throughout the state, that will provide a foundation to 23 build a comprehensive statewide framework for additional actions 24 needed to advance the state's broadband goals; and

25 (6) Providing additional funding mechanisms to increase broadband access in unserved areas is in the best interest of the state. To 26 that end, this act establishes a grant and loan program that will 27 support the extension of broadband infrastructure to unserved areas. 28 To ensure this program primarily serves the public interest, the 29 legislature intends that any grant or loan provided to a private 30 31 entity under this program must be conditioned on a guarantee that the 32 asset or infrastructure to be developed will be maintained for public use for a period of at least fifteen years. 33

34 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 43.330 35 RCW to read as follows:

The definitions in this section apply throughout this section and sections 3 through 6 of this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Board" means the public works board established in RCW
 43.155.030.

3 (2) "Broadband" or "broadband service" means any service 4 providing advanced telecommunications capability and internet access 5 with transmission speeds that, at a minimum, provide twenty-five 6 megabits per second download and three megabits per second upload.

7 (3) "Broadband infrastructure" means networks of deployed 8 telecommunications equipment and technologies necessary to provide 9 high-speed internet access and other advanced telecommunications 10 services to end users.

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(4) "Department" means the department of commerce.

12 (5) "Last mile infrastructure" means broadband infrastructure 13 that serves as the final connection from a broadband service 14 provider's network to the end-use customer's on-premises 15 telecommunications equipment.

(6) "Local government" includes cities, towns, counties,
 municipal corporations, public port districts, public utility
 districts, quasi-municipal corporations, special purpose districts,
 and multiparty entities comprised of public entity members.

20 (7) "Middle mile infrastructure" means broadband infrastructure 21 that links a broadband service provider's core network infrastructure 22 to last mile infrastructure.

(8) "Office" means the governor's statewide broadband officeestablished in section 3 of this act.

(9) "Tribe" means any federally recognized Indian tribe whosetraditional lands and territories included parts of Washington.

(10) "Unserved areas" means areas of Washington in which households and businesses lack access to broadband service, as defined by the office, except that the state's definition for broadband service may not be actual speeds less than twenty-five megabits per second download and three megabits per second upload.

32 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 43.330 33 RCW to read as follows:

(1) The governor's statewide broadband office is established. The director of the office must be appointed by the governor. The office may employ staff necessary to carry out the office's duties as prescribed by this act, subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose.

1 (2) The purpose of the office is to encourage, foster, develop, 2 and improve affordable, quality broadband within the state in order 3 to:

4 (a) Drive job creation, promote innovation, improve economic 5 vitality, and expand markets for Washington businesses;

6 (b) Serve the ongoing and growing needs of Washington's education 7 systems, health care systems, public safety systems, industries and 8 business, governmental operations, and citizens; and

9 (c) Improve broadband accessibility for unserved communities and 10 populations.

11 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 43.330
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) The office has the power and duty to:

14 (a) Serve as the central broadband planning body for the state of15 Washington;

(b) Coordinate with local governments, tribes, public and private entities, nonprofit organizations, and consumer-owned and investorowned utilities to develop strategies and plans promoting deployment of broadband infrastructure and greater broadband access, while protecting proprietary information;

21 (c) Review existing broadband initiatives, policies, and public 22 and private investments;

(d) Develop, recommend, and implement a statewide plan to
 encourage cost-effective broadband access and to make recommendations
 for increased usage, particularly in rural and other unserved areas;

(e) Update the state's broadband goals and definitions for broadband service in unserved areas as technology advances, except that the state's definition for broadband service may not be actual speeds less than twenty-five megabits per second download and three megabits per second upload; and

31 (f) Encourage public-private partnerships to increase deployment 32 and adoption of broadband services and applications.

33 (2) When developing plans or strategies for broadband deployment, 34 the office must consider:

(a) Partnerships between communities, tribes, nonprofit
 organizations, local governments, consumer-owned and investor-owned
 utilities, and public and private entities;

38 (b) Funding opportunities that provide for the coordination of 39 public, private, state, and federal funds for the purposes of making

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1 broadband infrastructure or broadband services available to rural and 2 unserved areas of the state;

3 (c) Barriers to the deployment, adoption, and utilization of 4 broadband service, including affordability of service; and

5 (d) Requiring minimum broadband service of twenty-five megabits 6 per second download and three megabits per second upload speed, that 7 is scalable to faster service.

8 (3) The office may assist applicants for the grant and loan 9 program created in section 7 of this act with seeking federal funding 10 or matching grants and other grant opportunities for deploying 11 broadband services.

12 (4) The office may take all appropriate steps to seek and apply 13 for federal funds for which the office is eligible, other grants, and 14 accept donations, and must deposit these funds in the statewide 15 broadband account created in section 8 of this act.

16 (5) In carrying out its purpose, the office may collaborate with 17 the utilities and transportation commission, the office of the chief 18 information officer, the department of commerce, the community 19 economic revitalization board, the public works board, the state 20 librarian, and all other relevant state agencies.

21 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 43.330 22 RCW to read as follows:

23 It is a goal of the state of Washington that:

(1) By 2024, all Washington businesses and residences have access
to high-speed broadband that provides minimum download speeds of at
least twenty-five megabits per second and minimum upload speeds of at
least three megabits per second;

(2) By 2026, all Washington communities have access to at least
 one gigabit per second symmetrical broadband service at anchor
 institutions like schools, hospitals, libraries, and government
 buildings; and

32 (3) By 2028, all Washington businesses and residences have access 33 to at least one provider of broadband with download speeds of at 34 least one hundred fifty megabits per second and upload speeds of at 35 least one hundred fifty megabits per second.

36 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 43.330 37 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) Beginning January 1, 2021, and biennially thereafter, the 2 office shall report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over broadband policy and finance on the office's activities during 3 the previous two years. 4

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(2) The report must, at a minimum, contain:

6 (a) An analysis of the current availability and use of broadband, 7 including average broadband speeds, within the state;

(b) Information gathered from schools, libraries, hospitals, and 8 public safety facilities across the state, determining the actual 9 speed and capacity of broadband currently in use and the need, if 10 11 any, for increases in speed and capacity to meet current or anticipated needs; 12

(c) An overview of incumbent broadband infrastructure within the 13 14 state;

(d) A summary of the office's activities in coordinating 15 16 broadband infrastructure development with the public works board, 17 including a summary of funds awarded under section 7 of this act;

(e) Suggested policies, incentives, and legislation designed to 18 accelerate the achievement of the goals under section 5 of this act; 19 20 and

21 (f) Any proposed legislative and policy initiatives.

22 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 7. A new section is added to chapter 43.155 23 RCW to read as follows:

24 (1) The board shall establish a competitive grant and loan 25 program to award funding to eligible applicants in order to promote 26 the expansion of access to broadband service in unserved areas of the 27 state.

28 (2) (a) Grants and loans may be awarded under this section to assist in funding acquisition, installation, and construction of 29 30 middle mile and last mile infrastructure that supports broadband 31 services and to assist in funding strategic planning for deploying broadband service in unserved areas. 32

(b) The board may choose to fund all or part of an application 33 for funding, provided that the application meets the requirements of 34 35 subsection (9) of this section.

(3) Eligible applicants for grants and loans awarded under this 36 section include: 37

(a) Local governments; 38

(b) Tribes; 39

- 1 (c) Nonprofit organizations;
 - (d) Cooperative associations;
- 3 (e) Multiparty entities comprised of public entity members;

4 (f) Limited liability corporations organized for the purpose of 5 expanding broadband access; and

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(g) Incorporated businesses or partnerships.

7 (4)(a) The board shall develop administrative procedures 8 governing the application and award process. The board shall act as 9 fiscal agent for the program and is responsible for receiving and 10 reviewing applications and awarding funds under this section.

11 (b) At least sixty days prior to the first day applications may 12 be submitted each fiscal year, the board must publish on its web site 13 the specific criteria and any quantitative weighting scheme or 14 scoring system that the board will use to evaluate or rank 15 applications and award funding.

16 (c) The board may maintain separate accounting in the statewide 17 broadband account created in section 8 of this act as the board deems 18 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

(d) The board must provide a method for the allocation of loans, grants, provision of technical assistance, and interest rates under this section.

(5) An applicant for a grant or loan under this section must provide the following information on the application:

24 (a) The location of the project;

(b) Evidence regarding the unserved nature of the community in which the project is to be located;

(c) Evidence that proposed infrastructure will be capable ofscaling to greater download and upload speeds;

(d) The number of households passed that will gain access to broadband service as a result of the project or whose broadband service will be upgraded as a result of the project;

32 (e) The estimated cost of retail services to end users33 facilitated by a project;

34 (f) The proposed actual download and upload speeds experienced by 35 end users;

36 (g) Evidence of significant community institutions that will 37 benefit from the proposed project;

(h) Anticipated economic, educational, health care, or publicsafety benefits created by the project;

40 (i) Evidence of community support for the project;

(j) If available, a description of the applicant's user adoption assistance program and efforts to promote the use of newly available broadband services created by the project;

(k) The estimated total cost of the project;

5 (1) Other sources of funding for the project that will supplement6 any grant or loan award;

7 (m) A demonstration of the project's long-term sustainability, 8 including the applicant's financial soundness, organizational 9 capacity, and technical expertise;

10 (n) A strategic plan to maintain long-term operation of the 11 infrastructure;

(o) Evidence that no later than six weeks before submission of 12 the application, the applicant contacted, in writing, all entities 13 14 providing broadband service near the proposed project area to ask each broadband service provider's plan to upgrade broadband service 15 16 in the project area to speeds that meet or exceed the state's 17 definition for broadband service as defined in section 2 of this act, within the time frame specified in the proposed grant or loan 18 activities; 19

20 (p) If applicable, the broadband service providers' written 21 responses to the inquiry made under (o) of this subsection; and

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(q) Any additional information requested by the board.

(6) (a) Within thirty days of the close of the grant and loan application process, the board shall publish on its web site the proposed geographic broadband service area and the proposed broadband speeds for each application submitted.

(b) Any existing broadband service provider near the proposed project area may, within thirty days of publication of the information under (a) of this subsection, submit in writing to the board an objection to an application. An objection must contain information demonstrating that:

32 (i) The project would result in overbuild, meaning that the 33 objecting provider currently provides, or has begun construction to 34 provide, broadband service to end users in the proposed project area 35 at speeds equal to or greater than the state speed goals contained in 36 section 5 of this act; or

(ii) The objecting provider commits to complete construction of broadband infrastructure and provide broadband service to end users in the proposed project area at speeds equal to or greater than the state speed goals contained in section 5 of this act, no later than

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1 twenty-four months after the date awards are made under this section 2 for the grant and loan cycle under which the application was 3 submitted.

4 (c) Objections submitted to the board under this subsection must 5 be certified by affidavit.

6 (d) The board may evaluate the information submitted under this section by the objecting provider and must consider it in making a 7 determination on the application objected to. The board may request 8 clarification or additional information. The board may choose to not 9 fund a project if the board determines that the objecting provider's 10 11 commitment to provide broadband service that meets the requirements 12 of (b) of this subsection in the proposed project area is credible. In assessing the commitment, the board may consider whether the 13 objecting provider has or will provide a bond, letter of credit, or 14 other indicia of financial commitment guaranteeing the project's 15 16 completion.

17 (e) If the board denies funding to an applicant as a result of a broadband service provider's objection made under this section, and 18 the broadband service provider does not fulfill its commitment to 19 provide broadband service in the project area, then for the following 20 21 two grant and loan cycles, the board is prohibited from denying funding to an applicant on the basis of a challenge by the same 22 23 broadband service provider, unless the board determines that the broadband service provider's failure to fulfill the provider's 24 25 commitment was the result of factors beyond the broadband service provider's control. The board is not prohibited from denying funding 26 to an applicant for reasons other than an objection by the same 27 28 broadband service provider.

(f) An applicant or broadband service provider that objected to the application may request a debriefing conference regarding the board's decision on the application. Requests for debriefing must be coordinated by the office and must be submitted in writing in accordance with procedures specified by the office.

(g) Confidential business and financial information submitted by
 an objecting provider under this subsection is exempt from disclosure
 under chapter 42.56 RCW.

37 (7)(a) In evaluating applications and awarding funds, the board 38 shall give priority to applications that are constructed in areas 39 identified as unserved.

(b) In evaluating applications and awarding funds, the board may
 give priority to applications that:

3 (i) Provide assistance to public-private partnerships deploying
4 broadband infrastructure from areas currently served with broadband
5 service to areas currently lacking access to broadband services;

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(ii) Demonstrate project readiness to proceed;

7 (iii) Construct infrastructure that is open access, meaning that 8 during the useful life of the infrastructure, service providers may 9 use network services and facilities at rates, terms, and conditions 10 that are not discriminatory or preferential between providers, and 11 employing accountable interconnection arrangements published and 12 available publicly;

(iv) Are submitted by tribal governments whose reservations are in rural and remote areas where reliable and efficient broadband services are unavailable to many or most residents;

16 (v) Bring broadband service to tribal lands, particularly to 17 rural and remote tribal lands or areas servicing rural and remote 18 tribal entities;

(vi) Are submitted by tribal governments in rural and remote areas that have spent significant amounts of tribal funds to address the problem but cannot provide necessary broadband services without either additional state support, additional federal support, or both;

23 (vii) Serve economically distressed areas of the state as the 24 term "distressed area" is defined in RCW 43.168.020;

(viii) Offer new or substantially upgraded broadband service to important community anchor institutions including, but not limited to, libraries, educational institutions, public safety facilities, and health care facilities;

(ix) Facilitate the use of telemedicine and electronic health records, especially in deliverance of behavioral health services and services to veterans;

32 (x) Provide technical support and train residents, businesses, 33 and institutions in the community served by the project to utilize 34 broadband service;

35 (xi) Include a component to actively promote the adoption of 36 newly available broadband services in the community;

37 (xii) Provide evidence of strong support for the project from 38 citizens, government, businesses, and community institutions;

39 (xiii) Provide access to broadband service to a greater number of 40 unserved households and businesses, including farms;

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1 (xiv) Utilize equipment and technology demonstrating greater 2 longevity of service;

3 (xv) Seek the lowest amount of state investment per new location 4 served and leverage greater amounts of funding for the project from 5 other private and public sources;

6 (xvi) Include evidence of a customer service plan;

7 (xvii) Consider leveraging existing broadband infrastructure and 8 other unique solutions;

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(xviii) Benefit public safety and fire preparedness; or

10 (xix) Demonstrate other priorities as the board may prescribe by 11 rule.

12 (c) The board shall endeavor to award funds under this section to 13 qualified applicants in all regions of the state.

(d) The board shall consider affordability and quality of serviceto end users in making a determination on any application.

16 (e) The board may develop additional rules for eligibility, 17 project applications, the associated objection process, and funding 18 priority, as provided under this subsection and subsections (3), (5), 19 and (6) of this section.

20 (f) The board may adopt rules for a voluntary nonbinding 21 mediation between incumbent providers and applicants to the grant and 22 loan program created in this section.

(8) To ensure a grant or loan to a private entity under this section primarily serves the public interest and benefits the public, any such grant or loan must be conditioned on a guarantee that the asset or infrastructure to be developed will be maintained for public use for a period of at least fifteen years.

(9) (a) No funds awarded under this section may fund more than
fifty percent of the total cost of the project, except as provided in
(b) of this subsection.

31 (b) The board may choose to fund up to ninety percent of the 32 total cost of a project in financially distressed counties.

33 (c) Funds awarded to a single project under this section must not 34 exceed two million dollars.

(10) Prior to awarding funds under this section, the board must consult with the Washington utilities and transportation commission. The commission must provide to the board an assessment of the economic and technical feasibility of a proposed application. The board must consider the commission's assessment as part of its evaluation of a proposed application. 1 (11) The board shall have such rights of recovery in the event of 2 default in payment or other breach of financing agreement as may be 3 provided in the agreement or otherwise by law.

4 (12) The community economic revitalization board shall facilitate 5 the timely transmission of information and documents from its 6 broadband program to the board in order to effectuate an orderly 7 transition.

8 (13) The definitions in section 2 of this act apply throughout 9 this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

10 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 8. A new section is added to chapter 43.155 11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) The statewide broadband account is created in the state 13 treasury. Moneys received from appropriations by the legislature, the 14 proceeds of bond sales when authorized by the legislature, repayment 15 of loans, or any other lawful source must be deposited into the 16 account for uses consistent with this section. Moneys in the account 17 may be spent only after appropriation.

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(2) Expenditures from the account may be used only:

(a) For grant and loan awards made under section 7 of this act,
 including costs incurred by the board to administer section 7 of this
 act;

(b) To contract for data acquisition, a statewide broadbanddemand assessment, or gap analysis;

(c) To supplement revenues raised by bonds sold by localgovernments for broadband structure development; or

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(d) To provide for state match requirements under federal law.

(3) The board must maintain separate accounting for any federalfunds in the account.

(4) The definitions in section 2 of this act apply throughoutthis section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

31 Sec. 9. RCW 54.16.330 and 2004 c 158 s 1 are each amended to 32 read as follows:

(1) (a) A public utility district in existence on June 8, 2000, may construct, purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease, license, handle, provide, add to, contract for, interconnect, alter, improve, repair, operate, and maintain any telecommunications facilities within or without the district's limits for the following purposes:

1 (((a))) <u>(i)</u> For the district's internal telecommunications needs; 2 ((and

3 (b)) (ii) For the provision of wholesale telecommunications
4 services within the district and by contract with another public
5 utility district.

6 (b) Except as provided in subsection (8) of this section, nothing 7 in this ((subsection)) section shall be construed to authorize public 8 utility districts to provide telecommunications services to end 9 users.

(2) A public utility district providing wholesale or retail 10 11 telecommunications services shall ensure that rates, terms, and 12 conditions for such services are not unduly or unreasonably discriminatory or preferential. Rates, terms, and conditions are 13 14 discriminatory or preferential when a public utility district offering rates, terms, and conditions to an entity for wholesale or 15 16 retail telecommunications services does not offer substantially 17 similar rates, terms, and conditions to all other entities seeking 18 substantially similar services.

(3) A public utility district providing wholesale or retail 19 telecommunications services shall not be required to, but may, 20 21 establish a separate utility system or function for such purpose. In either case, a public utility district providing wholesale or retail 22 telecommunications services shall separately account for any revenues 23 expenditures for those services according to standards 24 and 25 established by the state auditor pursuant to its authority in chapter 26 43.09 RCW and consistent with the provisions of this title. Any revenues received from the provision of wholesale or retail 27 telecommunications services must be dedicated to costs incurred to 28 build and maintain any telecommunications facilities constructed, 29 installed, or acquired to provide such services, including payments 30 31 on debt issued to finance such services, until such time as any bonds 32 or other financing instruments executed after June 8, 2000, and used 33 to finance such telecommunications facilities are discharged or retired. 34

(4) When a public utility district provides wholesale <u>or retail</u> telecommunications services, all telecommunications services rendered to the district for the district's internal telecommunications needs shall be allocated or charged at its true and full value. A public utility district may not charge its nontelecommunications operations rates that are preferential or discriminatory compared to those it

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1 charges entities purchasing wholesale <u>or retail</u> telecommunications 2 services.

3 (5) If a person or entity receiving retail telecommunications 4 services from a public utility district under this section has a 5 complaint regarding the reasonableness of the rates, terms, 6 conditions, or services provided, the person or entity may file a 7 complaint with the district commission.

8 <u>(6)</u> A public utility district shall not exercise powers of 9 eminent domain to acquire telecommunications facilities or 10 contractual rights held by any other person or entity to 11 telecommunications facilities.

12 (((6))) <u>(7)</u> Except as otherwise specifically provided, a public 13 utility district may exercise any of the powers granted to it under 14 this title and other applicable laws in carrying out the powers 15 authorized under this section. Nothing in chapter 81, Laws of 2000 16 limits any existing authority of a public utility district under this 17 title.

(8) (a) If an internet service provider operating on 18 telecommunications facilities of a public utility district that 19 provides wholesale telecommunications services but does not provide 20 retail telecommunications services, ceases to provide access to the 21 internet to its end-use customers, and no other retail service 22 23 providers are willing to provide service, the public utility district 24 may provide retail telecommunications services to the end-use 25 customers of the defunct internet service provider in order for enduse customers to maintain access to the internet until a replacement 26 27 internet service provider is, or providers are, in operation.

(b) Within thirty days of an internet service provider ceasing to provide access to the internet, the public utility district must initiate a process to find a replacement internet service provider or providers to resume providing access to the internet using telecommunications facilities of a public utility district.

33 (c) For a maximum period of five months, following initiation of 34 the process begun in (b) of this section, or, if earlier than five 35 months, until a replacement internet service provider is, or 36 providers are, in operation, the district commission may establish a 37 rate for providing access to the internet and charge customers to 38 cover expenses necessary to provide access to the internet. 1 Sec. 10. RCW 53.08.370 and 2018 c 169 s 2 are each amended to 2 read as follows:

(1) A port district in existence on June 8, 2000, may construct,
purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease, license, handle, provide,
add to, contract for, interconnect, alter, improve, repair, operate,
and maintain any telecommunications facilities within or without the
district's limits for the following purposes:

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(a) For the district's own use; and

9 (b) For the provision of wholesale telecommunications services 10 within <u>or without</u> the district's limits. Nothing in this subsection 11 shall be construed to authorize port districts to provide 12 telecommunications services to end users.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (9) of this section, a port 13 14 district providing wholesale telecommunications services under this section shall ensure that rates, terms, and conditions for such 15 16 services are not unduly or unreasonably discriminatory or 17 preferential. Rates, terms, and conditions are discriminatory or preferential when a port district offering such rates, terms, and 18 conditions to an entity for wholesale telecommunications services 19 does not offer substantially similar rates, terms, and conditions to 20 21 all other entities seeking substantially similar services.

22 (3) When a port district establishes a separate utility function for the provision of wholesale telecommunications services, it shall 23 24 account for any and all revenues and expenditures related to its 25 wholesale telecommunications facilities and services separately from 26 revenues and expenditures related to its internal telecommunications operations. Any revenues received from the provision of wholesale 27 telecommunications services must be dedicated to the utility function 28 29 that includes the provision of wholesale telecommunications services for costs incurred to build and maintain the telecommunications 30 31 facilities until such time as any bonds or other financing 32 instruments executed after June 8, 2000, and used to finance the telecommunications facilities are discharged or retired. 33

(4) When a port district establishes a separate utility function for the provision of wholesale telecommunications services, all telecommunications services rendered by the separate function to the district for the district's internal telecommunications needs shall be charged at its true and full value. A port district may not charge its nontelecommunications operations rates that are preferential or

1 discriminatory compared to those it charges entities purchasing 2 wholesale telecommunications services.

3 (5) A port district shall not exercise powers of eminent domain
4 to acquire telecommunications facilities or contractual rights held
5 by any other person or entity to telecommunications facilities.

6 (6) Except as otherwise specifically provided, a port district 7 may exercise any of the powers granted to it under this title and 8 other applicable laws in carrying out the powers authorized under 9 this section. Nothing in chapter 81, Laws of 2000 limits any existing 10 authority of a port district under this title.

(7) A port district that has not exercised the authorities 11 12 provided in this section prior to June 7, 2018, must develop a business case plan before exercising the authorities provided in this 13 14 section. The port district must procure an independent qualified consultant to review the business case plan, including the use of 15 16 public funds in the provision of wholesale telecommunications 17 services. Any recommendations or adjustments to the business case plan made during third-party review must be received and either 18 19 rejected or accepted by the port commission in an open meeting.

(8) A port district with telecommunications facilities for use in the provision of wholesale telecommunications in accordance with subsection (1)(b) of this section may be subject to local leasehold excise taxes under RCW 82.29A.040.

24 <u>(9)(a) A port district under this section may select a</u> 25 <u>telecommunications company to operate all or a portion of the port</u> 26 <u>district's telecommunications facilities.</u>

27 (b) For the purposes of this section "telecommunications company"
28 means any for-profit entity owned by investors that sells
29 telecommunications services to end users.

30 (c) Nothing in this subsection (9) is intended to limit or 31 otherwise restrict any other authority provided by law.

32 Sec. 11. RCW 80.36.630 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 8 s 202 are each 33 amended to read as follows:

(1) The definitions in this section apply throughout this section
 and RCW 80.36.650 through 80.36.690 and 80.36.610 unless the context
 clearly requires otherwise.

37 (a) "Basic residential service" means those services set out in
38 47 C.F.R. Sec. 54.101(a) (2011), as it existed on the effective date

1 <u>of this section</u>, and mandatory extended area service approved by the 2 commission.

3 (b) "Basic telecommunications services" means the following 4 services:

- 5 (i) Single-party service;
- 6 (ii) Voice grade access to the public switched network;

7 (iii) Support for local usage;

8 (iv) Dual tone multifrequency signaling (touch-tone);

9 (v) Access to emergency services (911);

10 (vi) Access to operator services;

11 (vii) Access to interexchange services;

12 (viii) Access to directory assistance; and

13 (ix) Toll limitation services.

14 (c) <u>"Broadband service" means any service providing advanced</u> 15 <u>telecommunications capability, including internet access and access</u> 16 <u>to high quality voice, data, graphics, or video.</u>

17 <u>(d)</u> "Communications provider" means a provider of communications 18 services that assigns a working telephone number to a final consumer 19 for intrastate wireline or wireless communications services or 20 interconnected voice over internet protocol service, and includes 21 local exchange carriers.

22 (((d))) <u>(e)</u> "Communications services" includes telecommunications 23 services and information services and any combination thereof.

24 (((-))) (f) "Incumbent local exchange carrier" has the same 25 meaning as set forth in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 251(h).

26 (((f))) <u>(g)</u> "Incumbent public network" means the network 27 established by incumbent local exchange carriers for the delivery of 28 communications services to customers that is used by communications 29 providers for origination or termination of communications services 30 by or to customers.

31 (((g))) (h) "Interconnected voice over internet protocol service" 32 means an interconnected voice over internet protocol service that: (((a) [(i)])) <u>(i)</u> Enables real-time, two-way voice communications; 33 ((((b) [(ii)])) (ii) requires a broadband connection from the user's 34 location; (((c) [(iii)])) (iii) requires internet protocol-compatible 35 customer premises equipment; and ((((d) [(iv)])) (iv) permits users 36 generally to receive calls that originate on the public network and 37 to terminate calls to the public network. 38

39 ((((h))) (i) "Program" means the state universal communications
40 services program created in RCW 80.36.650.

- 1 ((((i))) (j) "Telecommunications" has the same meaning as defined 2 in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 153(43).
- 3 ((-(j))) (k) "Telecommunications act of 1996" means the 4 telecommunications act of 1996 (P.L. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56).
- 5 ((-(k) "Working telephone number" means a north American numbering 6 plan telephone number, or successor dialing protocol, that is 7 developed for use in placing calls to or from the public network, 8 that enables a consumer to make or receive calls.))
- 9

(2) This section expires July 1, ((2020)) <u>2025</u>.

10 Sec. 12. RCW 80.36.650 and 2016 c 145 s 1 are each amended to 11 read as follows:

A state universal communications services program 12 (1)is established. The program is established to protect public safety and 13 14 welfare under the authority of the state to regulate 15 telecommunications under Article XII, section 19 of the state 16 Constitution. The purpose of the program is to support continued provision of basic telecommunications services under rates, terms, 17 and conditions established by the commission ((during the time over 18 which incumbent communications providers in the state are adapting to 19 changes in federal universal service fund and intercarrier 20 compensation support)) and the provision, enhancement, and 21 22 maintenance of broadband services, recognizing that, historically, 23 the incumbent public network functions to provide all communications services including, but not limited to, voice and broadband services. 24

(2) Under the program, eligible communications providers may 25 26 receive distributions from the universal communications services 27 account created in RCW 80.36.690 in exchange for the affirmative agreement to provide continued telecommunications services under the 28 29 rates, terms, and conditions established by the commission under this 30 chapter, and broadband services, for the period covered by the 31 distribution. The commission must implement and administer the program under terms and conditions established in RCW 80.36.630 32 through 80.36.690. Expenditures for the program may not exceed five 33 million dollars per fiscal year; provided, however, that if less than 34 five million dollars is expended in any fiscal year, the unexpended 35 portion must be carried over to subsequent fiscal years and, unless 36 fully expended, must be available for program expenditures in such 37 38 subsequent fiscal years in addition to the five million dollars 39 allotted for each of those subsequent fiscal years.

1 (3) A communications provider is eligible to receive 2 distributions from the account if:

(a) (i) The communications provider is: (((i))) (A) An incumbent 3 local exchange carrier serving fewer than forty thousand access lines 4 in the state; or ((((ii))) (B) a radio communications service company 5 6 providing wireless two-way voice communications service and broadband services to less than the equivalent of forty thousand access lines 7 in the state. For purposes of determining the access line threshold 8 in this subsection, the access lines or equivalents of all wireline 9 10 affiliates must be counted as a single threshold, if the lines or equivalents are located in Washington; 11

12 (((b))) (ii) The ((customers of the communications provider are 13 at risk of rate instability or service interruptions or cessations 14 absent a distribution to the provider that will allow the provider to 15 maintain rates reasonably close to the benchmark)) communications 16 provider has adopted a plan to provide, enhance, or maintain 17 broadband services in its service area; and

18 (((c))) <u>(iii)</u> The communications provider meets any other 19 requirements established by the commission pertaining to the 20 provision of communications services, including basic 21 telecommunications services; or

(b) The communications provider demonstrates to the commission 22 that the communications provider is able to provide the same or 23 24 comparable services at the same or similar service quality standards 25 at a lower price; and: (i) Will provide communications services to all customers in the exchange or exchanges in which it will provide 26 27 service; and (ii) submits to the commission's regulation of its service as if it were the incumbent local exchange company serving 28 the exchange or exchanges for which it seeks distribution from the 29 30 account.

31 (4) (a) Distributions to eligible communications providers are 32 based on ((a benchmark)) criteria established by the commission. ((The benchmark is the rate the commission determines to be a 33 reasonable amount customers should pay for basic residential service 34 provided over the incumbent public network. However, if an incumbent 35 local exchange carrier is charging rates above the benchmark for the 36 37 basic residential service, that provider may not seek distributions 38 from the fund for the purpose of reducing those rates to the 39 benchmark.))

1 (b) If the program does not have sufficient funds to fully fund 2 the distribution formula set out in (a) of this subsection, 3 distributions must be reduced on a pro rata basis using the amounts 4 calculated for that year's program support as the basis of the pro 5 rata calculations.

6 <u>(c)</u> To receive a distribution under the program, an eligible 7 communications provider must affirmatively consent to continue 8 providing communications services to its customers under rates, 9 terms, and conditions established by the commission pursuant to this 10 chapter for the period covered by the distribution.

11 (5) The program is funded from amounts deposited by the 12 legislature in the universal communications services account 13 established in RCW 80.36.690. The commission must operate the program 14 within amounts appropriated for this purpose and deposited in the 15 account.

16 (6) The commission must periodically review the accounts and 17 records of any communications provider that receives distributions 18 under the program to ensure compliance with the program and monitor 19 the providers' use of the funds.

(7) The commission must establish an advisory board, consisting of a reasonable balance of representatives from different types of <u>stakeholders, including but not limited to</u> communications providers and consumers, to advise the commission on any rules and policies governing the operation of the program.

25 (8) The program terminates on June 30, ((2019)) <u>2024</u>, and no 26 distributions may be made after that date.

27

(9) This section expires July 1, ((2020)) <u>2025</u>.

28 Sec. 13. RCW 80.36.660 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 8 s 204 are each 29 amended to read as follows:

30 (1) To implement the program, the commission must adopt rules for 31 the following purposes:

(a) Operation of the program, including criteria for: Eligibility
for distributions; use of the funds; identification of any reports or
data that must be filed with the commission, including, but not
limited to, how a communication provider used the distributed funds;
and the communications provider's infrastructure;

37 (b) Operation of the universal communications services account 38 established in RCW 80.36.690; 1 (c) Establishment of the ((benchmark)) criteria used to calculate
2 distributions; and

3 (d) Readoption, amendment, or repeal of any existing rules 4 adopted pursuant to RCW 80.36.610 ((and 80.36.620)) as necessary to 5 be consistent with RCW 80.36.630 through 80.36.690 and 80.36.610.

(2) This section expires July 1, ((2020)) <u>2025</u>.

7 Sec. 14. RCW 80.36.670 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 8 s 205 are each 8 amended to read as follows:

(1) In addition to any other penalties prescribed by law, the 9 10 commission may impose penalties for failure to make or delays in making or filing any reports required by the commission for 11 administration of the program. In addition, the commission may 12 13 recover amounts determined to have been improperly distributed under RCW 80.36.650. For the purposes of this section, the provisions of 14 15 RCW 80.04.380 through 80.04.405, inclusive, apply to all companies 16 that receive support from the universal communications services account created in RCW 80.36.690. 17

18 (2) Any action taken under this section must be taken only after 19 providing the affected communications provider with notice and an 20 opportunity for a hearing, unless otherwise provided by law.

(3) Any amounts recovered under this section must be deposited in the universal communications services account created in RCW 80.36.690.

24 (4) This section expires July 1, ((2020)) <u>2025</u>.

25 Sec. 15. RCW 80.36.680 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 8 s 206 are each 26 amended to read as follows:

(1) The commission may delegate to the commission secretary or other staff the authority to resolve disputes and make other administrative decisions necessary to the administration and supervision of the program consistent with the relevant statutes and commission rules.

32

6

(2) This section expires July 1, ((2020)) <u>2025</u>.

33 Sec. 16. RCW 80.36.690 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 8 s 208 are each 34 amended to read as follows:

35 (1) The universal communications services account is created in 36 the custody of the state treasurer. Revenues to the account consist 37 of moneys deposited in the account by the legislature and any

1 penalties or other recoveries received pursuant to RCW 80.36.670. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purposes of 2 3 the universal communications services program established in RCW 80.36.650 and commission expenses related to implementation and 4 administration of the provisions of RCW 80.36.630 through 80.36.690 5 6 and section 212, chapter 8, Laws of 2013 2nd sp. sess. Only the 7 secretary of the commission or the secretary's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment 8 procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not 9 10 required for expenditures.

11

(2) This section expires July 1, ((2020)) 2025.

12 Sec. 17. RCW 80.36.700 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 8 s 211 are each 13 amended to read as follows:

14 (1) The universal communications services program established in 15 RCW 80.36.630 through 80.36.690 terminates on June 30, ((2019)) 2024. 16

(2) This section expires July 1, ((2020)) 2025.

17 Sec. 18. 2013 2nd sp.s. c 8 s 212 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows: 18

19 (1) By December 1, ((2017)) 2024, and in compliance with RCW 20 43.01.036, the Washington utilities and transportation commission 21 ((must)) may report to the appropriate committees of the legislature, on the following: (((+))) (a) Whether funding levels for each small 22 23 telecommunications company have been adequate to maintain reliable 24 universal service; (((2))) <u>(b)</u> the future impacts on small telecommunications companies from the elimination of funding under 25 26 this act; (((-3))) (c) the impacts on customer rates from the current 27 level of funding and the future impacts when the funding terminates under this act; and (((4))) (d) the impacts on line and service 28 29 delivery investments when the funding is terminated under this act. 30 The report may also include an analysis of the need for future program funding and recommendations on potential funding mechanisms 31 32 to improve the availability of communications services, including broadband service, in unserved areas. Commission expenses related to 33 conducting all analysis in preparation of this report must be 34 expended from the universal communications services account. 35

(2) The Washington utilities and transportation commission must 36 37 initiate a rule making to reform the state universal communications 38 services program no later than ninety days following the effective 1 date of this section. The rule making must address adding broadband 2 as a supported service and, consistent with the size of the fund, 3 establishing: 4 (a) Broadband provider eligibility;

5 (b) Service performance and buildout requirements for funding 6 recipients;

7 (c) Support amounts for maintaining systems that meet federal or 8 state broadband speed guidelines; and

9 <u>(d) Methods to effectively and efficiently distribute program</u> 10 <u>support to eligible providers.</u>

11 Sec. 19. RCW 43.84.092 and 2018 c 287 s 7, 2018 c 275 s 10, and 12 2018 c 203 s 14 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(1) All earnings of investments of surplus balances in the state treasury shall be deposited to the treasury income account, which account is hereby established in the state treasury.

16 (2) The treasury income account shall be utilized to pay or receive funds associated with federal programs as required by the 17 18 federal cash management improvement act of 1990. The treasury income account is subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no 19 20 appropriation is required for refunds or allocations of interest 21 earnings required by the cash management improvement act. Refunds of 22 interest to the federal treasury required under the cash management improvement act fall under RCW 43.88.180 and shall not require 23 24 appropriation. The office of financial management shall determine the 25 amounts due to or from the federal government pursuant to the cash management improvement act. The office of financial management may 26 27 direct transfers of funds between accounts as deemed necessary to implement the provisions of the cash management improvement act, and 28 29 this subsection. Refunds or allocations shall occur prior to the 30 distributions of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this 31 section.

32 (3) Except for the provisions of RCW 43.84.160, the treasury 33 income account may be utilized for the payment of purchased banking 34 services on behalf of treasury funds including, but not limited to, 35 depository, safekeeping, and disbursement functions for the state 36 treasury and affected state agencies. The treasury income account is 37 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is 38 required for payments to financial institutions. Payments shall occur

1 prior to distribution of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this
2 section.

3 (4) Monthly, the state treasurer shall distribute the earnings 4 credited to the treasury income account. The state treasurer shall 5 credit the general fund with all the earnings credited to the 6 treasury income account except:

The following accounts and funds shall receive their 7 (a) proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's and fund's 8 average daily balance for the period: The abandoned recreational 9 vehicle disposal account, the aeronautics account, the aircraft 10 search and rescue account, the Alaskan Way viaduct replacement 11 12 project account, the brownfield redevelopment trust fund account, the budget stabilization account, the capital vessel replacement account, 13 the capitol building construction account, the Cedar River channel 14 construction and operation account, the Central Washington University 15 16 capital projects account, the charitable, educational, penal and 17 reformatory institutions account, the Chehalis basin account, the cleanup settlement account, the Columbia river basin water supply 18 development account, the Columbia river basin taxable bond water 19 supply development account, the Columbia river basin water supply 20 21 revenue recovery account, the common school construction fund, the community forest trust account, the connecting Washington account, 22 23 the county arterial preservation account, the county criminal justice assistance account, the deferred compensation administrative account, 24 25 the deferred compensation principal account, the department of licensing services account, the department of licensing tuition 26 recovery trust fund, the department of retirement systems expense 27 28 account, the developmental disabilities community trust account, the diesel idle reduction account, the drinking water assistance account, 29 the drinking water assistance administrative account, the early 30 31 learning facilities development account, the early learning 32 facilities revolving account, the Eastern Washington University capital projects account, the Interstate 405 express toll lanes 33 operations account, the education construction fund, the education 34 legacy trust account, the election account, the electric vehicle 35 charging infrastructure account, the energy freedom account, the 36 energy recovery act account, the essential rail assistance account, 37 The Evergreen State College capital projects account, the federal 38 39 forest revolving account, the ferry bond retirement fund, the freight mobility investment account, the freight mobility multimodal account, 40

the grade crossing protective fund, the public health services 1 account, ((the high capacity transportation account,)) the state 2 higher education construction account, the 3 higher education construction account, the highway bond retirement fund, the highway 4 infrastructure account, the highway safety fund, the high occupancy 5 6 toll lanes operations account, the hospital safety net assessment fund, the industrial insurance premium refund account, the judges' 7 retirement account, the judicial retirement administrative account, 8 the judicial retirement principal account, the local leasehold excise 9 tax account, the local real estate excise tax account, the local 10 11 sales and use tax account, the marine resources stewardship trust account, the medical aid account, the mobile home park relocation 12 fund, the money-purchase retirement savings administrative account, 13 the money-purchase retirement savings principal account, the motor 14 15 vehicle fund, the motorcycle safety education account, the multimodal 16 transportation account, the multiuse roadway safety account, the 17 municipal criminal justice assistance account, the natural resources 18 deposit account, the oyster reserve land account, the pension funding 19 stabilization account, the perpetual surveillance and maintenance account, the pollution liability insurance agency underground storage 20 tank revolving account, the public employees' retirement system plan 21 1 account, the public employees' retirement system combined plan 2 22 23 and plan 3 account, the public facilities construction loan revolving account beginning July 1, 2004, the public health supplemental 24 25 account, the public works assistance account, the Puget Sound capital 26 construction account, the Puget Sound ferry operations account, the Puget Sound taxpayer accountability account, the real estate 27 28 appraiser commission account, the recreational vehicle account, the 29 regional mobility grant program account, the resource management cost account, the rural arterial trust account, the rural mobility grant 30 31 program account, the rural Washington loan fund, the sexual assault 32 prevention and response account, the site closure account, the skilled nursing facility safety net trust fund, the small city 33 pavement and sidewalk account, the special category C account, the 34 special wildlife account, the state employees' insurance account, the 35 36 state employees' insurance reserve account, the state investment board expense account, the state investment board commingled trust 37 fund accounts, the state patrol highway account, the state route 38 39 number 520 civil penalties account, the state route number 520 40 corridor account, the state wildlife account, the statewide broadband

account, the statewide tourism marketing account, the student 1 achievement council tuition recovery trust fund, the supplemental 2 pension account, the Tacoma Narrows toll bridge account, the 3 teachers' retirement system plan 1 account, the teachers' retirement 4 system combined plan 2 and plan 3 account, the tobacco prevention and 5 6 control account, the tobacco settlement account, the toll facility 7 bond retirement account, the transportation 2003 account (nickel account), the transportation equipment fund, the transportation 8 future funding program account, the transportation 9 improvement account, the transportation improvement board bond retirement 10 11 account, the transportation infrastructure account, the 12 transportation partnership account, the traumatic brain injury account, the tuition recovery trust fund, the University of 13 Washington bond retirement fund, the University of Washington 14 building account, the volunteer firefighters' and reserve officers' 15 16 relief and pension principal fund, the volunteer firefighters' and 17 reserve officers' administrative fund, the Washington judicial retirement system account, the Washington law enforcement officers' 18 and firefighters' system plan 1 retirement account, the Washington 19 law enforcement officers' and firefighters' system plan 2 retirement 20 21 account, the Washington public safety employees' plan 2 retirement account, the Washington school employees' retirement system combined 22 plan 2 and 3 account, the Washington state health insurance pool 23 24 account, the Washington state patrol retirement account, the 25 Washington State University building account, the Washington State 26 University bond retirement fund, the water pollution control revolving administration account, the water pollution control 27 revolving fund, the Western Washington University capital projects 28 29 account, the Yakima integrated plan implementation account, the Yakima integrated plan implementation revenue recovery account, and 30 31 Yakima integrated plan implementation taxable bond account. the 32 Earnings derived from investing balances of the agricultural 33 permanent fund, the normal school permanent fund, the permanent common school fund, the scientific permanent fund, the state 34 university permanent fund, and the state reclamation revolving 35 account shall be allocated to their respective beneficiary accounts. 36

37 (b) Any state agency that has independent authority over accounts 38 or funds not statutorily required to be held in the state treasury 39 that deposits funds into a fund or account in the state treasury 40 pursuant to an agreement with the office of the state treasurer shall

1 receive its proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's 2 or fund's average daily balance for the period.

3 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state 4 Constitution, no treasury accounts or funds shall be allocated 5 earnings without the specific affirmative directive of this section.

6 Sec. 20. 2013 2nd sp.s. c 8 s 303 (uncodified) is amended to 7 read as follows:

8 Section 209 of this act expires July 1, ((2020)) <u>2025</u>.

9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 21. The following acts or parts of acts are 10 each repealed:

(1) RCW 43.330.415 (Washington community technology opportunity account) and 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 608, 2009 c 509 s 8, & 2008 c 262 s 8;

14 (2) RCW 43.330.418 (Broadband deployment and adoption—Governor's 15 actions—Oversight and implementation by the department) and 2011 1st 16 sp.s. c 43 s 609 & 2009 c 509 s 9; and

17 (3) RCW 80.36.620 (Universal service program—Rules) and 1998 c 18 337 s 3.

19 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 22. If any provision of this act or its 20 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the 21 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other 22 persons or circumstances is not affected.

23 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 23. Sections 11 through 18 and 20 of this act 24 are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, 25 health, or safety, or support of the state government and its 26 existing public institutions, and take effect immediately.

27 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 24. If specific funding for the purposes of 28 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not 29 provided by June 30, 2019, in the omnibus appropriations act, this 30 act is null and void.

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