

Senate Bill 505

Sponsored by Senator LINTHICUM; Senator HANSELL (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Oregon Broadband Advisory Council to study issues related to expansion of broadband capacity and access. Requires council, based on findings of its study, to establish statewide broadband plan and submit report to interim committees related to economic development on or before September 15, 2020. Authorizes council to propose legislation for 2021 regular session based on its findings with respect to study of public-private partnerships.

Appropriates moneys to Oregon Business Development Department for Rural Broadband Capacity Pilot Program grants for broadband infrastructure projects in rural areas that lack adequate broadband access.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to expansion of infrastructure in rural areas; creating new provisions; amending section 5,
3 chapter 782, Oregon Laws 2009; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Broadband Advisory Council established under section 1,**
6 **chapter 782, Oregon Laws 2009, shall conduct a study of issues related to broadband capacity**
7 **and access in this state.**

8 **(2) In conducting the study, the council shall:**

9 **(a) Examine public-private partnerships for broadband projects that are:**

10 **(A) Led by the private sector;**

11 **(B) Led by the public sector and supported by the private sector; or**

12 **(C) Jointly owned by the public and private sectors.**

13 **(b) Identify policies aimed at removing barriers to expansion of broadband capacity. Such**
14 **barriers include, but are not limited to, permits, easements and access to publicly owned**
15 **rights-of-way and vertical assets, such as buildings and towers.**

16 **(c) Identify opportunities to create gigabit opportunity zones in economically challenged**
17 **rural areas, including offering tax credits for expansion of broadband capacity and access**
18 **within the zones.**

19 **(3) Based on the findings of the study, the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council:**

20 **(a) Shall:**

21 **(A) Establish a statewide broadband plan; and**

22 **(B) Submit a report, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, to the interim committees**
23 **of the Legislative Assembly related to economic development on or before September 15,**
24 **2020.**

25 **(b) May submit proposals for legislation related to subsection (2)(a) of this section for**
26 **consideration for the 2021 regular session of the Legislative Assembly.**

27 **SECTION 2. There is appropriated to the Oregon Business Development Department, for**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$25 million for**
2 **grants to be made through the department's Rural Broadband Capacity Pilot Program for**
3 **broadband infrastructure projects in rural areas of this state that lack adequate broadband**
4 **access.**

5 **SECTION 3.** Section 5, chapter 782, Oregon Laws 2009, as amended by section 5, chapter 87,
6 Oregon Laws 2014, section 1, chapter 483, Oregon Laws 2015, and section 36, chapter 807, Oregon
7 Laws 2015, is amended to read:

8 **Sec. 5.** (1) Sections 1 to 4, chapter 782, Oregon Laws 2009, are repealed on January 2, [2020]
9 **2022.**

10 (2) The amendments to ORS 403.450 by section 4, chapter 87, Oregon Laws 2014, become oper-
11 ative on January 2, [2020] **2022.**

12 **SECTION 4. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
13 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect**
14 **on its passage.**

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