

AMENDMENT TO DIVISION B OF RULES
COMMITTEE PRINT 117-55
(AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD
AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS DIVISION)
OFFERED BY MR. DAVID SCOTT OF GEORGIA

At the end of the division (before the short title), insert the following:

1 INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM
2 SEC. _____. Section 603(e) of the Rural Electrifica-
3 tion Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb-2(e)) is amended to read
4 as follows:
5 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
7 appropriated to the Secretary \$300,000,000 for each
8 of fiscal years 2023 through 2030, to remain avail-
9 able until expended, to carry out projects in States
10 and territories selected by the Secretary to be di-
11 verse on the basis of geography, topography, and de-
12 mographics.
13 “(2) LIMITATION.—Not more than \$25,000,000
14 of the amounts made available under paragraph (1)

1 for each fiscal year may be provided for a single
2 project.”.

3 RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM LOANS AND GRANTS

4 SEC. _____. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601 of the
5 Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is
6 amended—

7 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**AC-**
8 **CESS TO BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
9 **SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS**” and inserting “**RE-**
10 **CONNECT RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM**”;

11 (2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
12 following:

13 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE.—The Secretary
14 shall establish a program, which shall be known as the
15 ‘ReConnect Rural Broadband Program’, to provide grants,
16 loans, and loan guarantees to finance the costs of the con-
17 struction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and
18 equipment for broadband service in rural areas.”;

19 (3) in subsection (c)(2), by striking subpara-
20 graphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In making grants,
22 making loans, and guaranteeing loans under
23 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give the
24 highest priority to applications for projects to
25 provide broadband service to unserved rural

1 communities that do not have any residential
2 broadband service of at least—

3 “(i) a 10–Mbps downstream trans-
4 mission capacity; and

5 “(ii) a 1–Mbps upstream transmission
6 capacity.

7 “(B) OTHER.—After giving priority to the
8 applications described in clauses (i) and (ii) of
9 subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall then give
10 priority to applications for projects to provide
11 broadband service to rural communities—

12 “(i) with a population of less than
13 10,000 inhabitants; or

14 “(ii) with a high percentage of low in-
15 come families or persons (as defined in
16 section 501(b) of the Housing Act of
17 1949).

18 “(C) PORTS IN RURAL AREAS PRIORITY.—

19 “(i) DEFINITION OF PORT.—In this
20 subparagraph, the term ‘port’ means—

21 “(I) any port on the navigable
22 waters of the United States, including
23 territories;

24 “(II) any harbor, marine ter-
25 minal, or other shore side facility used

1 principally for the movement of goods
2 on inland waters; and

3 “(III) any port formed in accord-
4 ance with applicable State or territory
5 law.

6 “(ii) PRIORITY.—In addition to the
7 priority given under subparagraph (B), the
8 Secretary shall give equal priority to an
9 application for a project that would in-
10 crease the availability of broadband service
11 in a port in a rural area.

12 “(D) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In
13 making grants, making loans, and guaranteeing
14 loans under this subsection, the Secretary shall
15 consider whether an application was developed
16 with the participation of community stake-
17 holders, and will receive a substantial portion of
18 the funding for the project from community
19 stakeholders or other non-Federal sources.”;

20 (4) in subsection (c)(3)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

22 (i) by striking “and” at the end of
23 clause (i);

24 (ii) by striking the period at the end
25 of clause (ii) and inserting “; and”; and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(iii) shall be subject to a grant
4 agreement of not less than ten years.”;

5 (B) in subparagraph (D)(i)—

6 (i) in subclause (I), by striking
7 “(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “(2)(A)”; and

8 (ii) in subclause (II), by striking “any
9 of subclauses (I) through (IV) of para-
10 graph (2)(B)(i)” and inserting “clause (i)
11 or (ii) of paragraph (2)(B)”; and

12 (C) by striking subparagraph (E) and in-
13 serting the following:

14 “(E) APPLICATIONS.—

15 “(i) GRANT-ONLY APPLICATIONS.—
16 The Secretary shall establish an applica-
17 tion process that permits an application for
18 a grant-only award.

19 “(ii) COMBINED APPLICATIONS.—The
20 Secretary shall establish an application
21 process that permits—

22 “(I) a single application for a
23 grant and a loan under title I or II,
24 or this title, that is associated with
25 the grant; and

1 “(II) provides a single decision to
2 award the grant and the loan.”;

3 (5) in subsection (d)(2)—

4 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

5 (i) by striking “subparagraphs (B)
6 and (C)” and inserting “subparagraph
7 (B)”;

8 (ii) by striking “is submitted—” and
9 all that follows through “(i) not less” and
10 inserting “is submitted not less” ; and

11 (iii) by striking “(e); and” and all
12 that follows and inserting “(e).”;

13 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
14 “Subparagraph (A)(i)” and inserting “Subpara-
15 graph (A)”;

16 (C) by striking subparagraph (C);

17 (6) in subsection (d), by striking paragraph (5);

18 (7) by striking subsection (j) and inserting the
19 following:

20 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
22 out this section \$3,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years
23 2023 through 2030, to remain available for 5 fiscal years
24 after the fiscal year for which appropriated.”; and

1 (8) in subsection (k), by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2030”.

3 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
5 Agriculture shall promulgate rules to carry out the amend-
6 ments made by subsection (a) of this section, and complete
7 the biennial review process required by section 601(e)(2)
8 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

9 (c) SUNSET.—The authorities provided by section
10 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public
11 Law 115–141) shall have no force or effect after June
12 30, 2023.

13 (d) TRANSITION RULES.—

14 (1) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRA-
15 TIVE COSTS.—Not more than 1 percent of the unob-
16 ligated balances of amounts made available as of
17 June 1, 2021, to carry out the pilot program de-
18 scribed in section 779 of the Consolidated Appro-
19 priations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) may be
20 used for the costs of transitioning from the pilot
21 program to the program under section 601 of the
22 Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended by
23 this Act.

24 (2) CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The unobligated bal-
2 ances of all amounts made available on or be-
3 fore June 30, 2023, to carry out the pilot pro-
4 gram described in section 779 of the Consoli-
5 dated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law
6 115–141) that are in excess of the amount de-
7 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph
8 are hereby transferred to and merged with
9 amounts made available to carry out the pro-
10 gram authorized under section 601 of the Rural
11 Electrification Act of 1936.

12 (B) UNFUNDED APPROVALS.—The amount
13 described in this subparagraph is the amount
14 required to fully fund each project approved as
15 of June 30, 2023, under the pilot program de-
16 scribed in such section 779 for which amounts
17 were not obligated or partially obligated as of
18 such date.

19 COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANTS

20 SEC. _____. Section 604(g) of the Rural Electrifica-
21 tion Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb-3(g)) is amended by
22 striking “\$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019
23 through 2023” and inserting “\$150,000,000 for each of
24 fiscal years 2023 through 2030, to remain available for
25 2 fiscal years after the fiscal year for which appropriated”.

1 DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE LOANS AND
2 GRANTS

3 SEC. _____. Section 2335A of the Food, Agri-
4 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.
5 950aaa-5) is amended by striking “\$82,000,000 for each
6 of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting
7 “\$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
8 2030, to remain available for 2 fiscal years after the fiscal
9 year for which appropriated”.

10 EXPANSION OF MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE INTO
11 RURAL AREAS

12 SEC. _____. Section 602(g) of the Rural Electrifica-
13 tion Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb-1(g)) is amended by
14 striking “\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018
15 through 2023” and inserting “\$300,000,000 for each of
16 fiscal years 2023 through 2030, to remain available for
17 2 fiscal years after the fiscal year for which appropriated”.

18 BROADBAND CONNECTORS PROGRAM

19 SEC. _____. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of
20 Agriculture shall establish a system for the dissemination
21 of information and technical assistance on the broadband
22 programs of the Department of Agriculture, which shall
23 be for the use of entities eligible, such as Indian tribes
24 and tribal organizations, to receive funds under title II
25 or VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C.
26 901 et seq.) or chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XXIII of

1 the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of
2 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq.).

3 (b) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-
4 PRIATIONS.—To carry out subsection (a), there are au-
5 thorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture
6 not more than \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
7 through 2030, which are authorized to remain available
8 through fiscal year 2030.

9 COMMUNITY BROADBAND MAPPING

10 SEC. _____. Section 701 of the Rural Electrification
11 Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950cc) is amended by redesignating
12 subsection (e) as subsection (f) and inserting after sub-
13 section (d) the following:

14 “(e) COMMUNITY BROADBAND MAPPING PRO-
15 GRAM.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
17 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of col-
18 lecting broadband service data to assist the Sec-
19 retary in—

20 “(A) establishing the availability of
21 broadband service or middle mile infrastructure
22 in a rural area;

23 “(B) determining the eligibility of a com-
24 munity for assistance under any broadband pro-
25 gram administered by the Secretary; or

1 “(C) undertaking a service area assess-
2 ment under this section.

3 “(2) APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant
4 under this section, an entity shall submit an applica-
5 tion therefor which identifies—

6 “(A) the data collection area;

7 “(B) the purpose of the data collection;

8 “(C) the types of broadband service data
9 to be collected;

10 “(D) the survey and data collection meth-
11 ods to be utilized; and

12 “(E) any other information the Secretary
13 determines necessary to promote the integrity
14 of broadband service data collected under this
15 section.

16 “(3) LIMITATION ON GRANT AMOUNT.—The
17 amount of a grant made under this subsection shall
18 not exceed \$50,000.

19 “(4) BROADBAND SERVICE DATA USAGE.—The
20 Secretary shall ensure that any broadband service
21 data collected under this section is—

22 “(A) measured or assessed in accordance
23 with such standards as the Secretary may es-
24 tablish;

1 “(B) accurate and verifiable in accordance
2 with such standards as the Secretary may es-
3 tablish;

4 “(C) included in any broadband maps or
5 data sets maintained by the Secretary; and

6 “(D) made available to the Chair of the
7 Federal Communications Commission and the
8 Administrator of the National Telecommuni-
9 cations and Information Administration for in-
10 clusion in any broadband maps or data sets ei-
11 ther may maintain.

12 “(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

13 “(A) BROADBAND SERVICE.—The term
14 ‘broadband service’ has the meaning given the
15 term in section 601.

16 “(B) BROADBAND SERVICE DATA.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term
18 ‘broadband service data’ means informa-
19 tion related to—

20 “(I) the location and type of
21 broadband service;

22 “(II) the location and type of
23 broadband infrastructure;

1 “(III) the advertised, maximum,
2 and average speed of broadband serv-
3 ice;

4 “(IV) the average price of the
5 most subscribed tier of broadband
6 service;

7 “(V) the speed tiers of broadband
8 service available in the area; or

9 “(VI) any additional metric the
10 Secretary deems appropriate.

11 “(ii) FURTHER DEFINITION.—The
12 Secretary shall further define the term
13 ‘broadband service data’ to ensure that
14 data is measured and collected in a man-
15 ner consistent with the reporting require-
16 ments under this section, and any
17 broadband coordination or data- sharing
18 obligations.

19 “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
20 ble entity’ means—

21 “(i) a unit of local government in a
22 rural area;

23 “(ii) a tribal government or unit of
24 tribal government;

1 “(iii) an economic development or
2 other community organization;

3 “(iv) an eligible entity under title I or
4 II that serves persons in rural areas;

5 “(v) an internet service provider that
6 has not more than 100,000 subscribers; or

7 “(vi) any other entity eligible under a
8 title VI program that is not an internet
9 service provider.

10 “(D) MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE.—
11 The term ‘middle mile infrastructure’ has the
12 meaning given the term in section 602.

13 “(E) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’
14 has the meaning given the term in section 601.

15 “(6) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT MADE AVAILABLE
16 FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary may not expend more
17 than 1 percent of the amounts made available under
18 subsection (f) for each of fiscal years 2023 through
19 2030 to carry out this subsection.”.

20 LIMITATIONS ON RESERVATION OF FUNDS

21 SEC. _____. Section 701(f) of the Rural Electrifica-
22 tion Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950cc(f)), as so redesignated
23 by the preceding section of this Act, is amended to read
24 as follows:

25 “(f) LIMITATIONS ON RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—
26 Not less than 3 but not more than 7 percent of the

1 amounts appropriated to carry out title VI shall be set
2 aside to be used—

3 “(1) for administrative costs to carry out pro-
4 grams under title VI;

5 “(2) for technical assistance and pre-develop-
6 ment planning activities to support the most rural
7 communities;

8 “(3) to conduct oversight under title VI;

9 “(4) to implement accountability measures and
10 related activities authorized under title VI; and

11 “(5) to carry out this section.”.

