

Bill No.: HB0014 **Effective:** **Immediately**
LSO No.: 21LSO-0195
Enrolled Act No.: HEA No. 0034
Chapter No.: 45
Prime Sponsor: Joint Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions Interim Committee
Catch Title: **Rights of way along public ways-amendments.**
Subject: Rights-of-way for broadband projects.

Summary/Major Elements:

- Current law specifies procedures for seeking a right-of-way along public roads and streets for constructing and operating a public utility or communications company.
- This act specifies separate requirements for broadband facilities that are constructed on government property or public rights-of-way. Upon receiving an application for a right-of-way, any permits or authorizations must be approved or receive a response by the applicable political subdivision or state agency, with final approval or denial of an application required not later than sixty (60) calendar days after receiving an application.
- The act amends the definition of "communications company" as used in the rights-of-way statute to include a cable operator as defined under federal law as long as the cable operator provides telecommunications services or internet-protocol-enabled service or voice-over internet protocol.
- The act requires the Department of Transportation to petition the federal government for a blanket easement for rights-of-way along, across, or under any public roads located on federal lands in Wyoming upon which broadband providers can set their fixtures or facilities. The Department must seek approval from the governor to proceed by May 1, 2021. The Department must convene an unpaid working group (which may include legislators, federal officials, industry representatives, and state agency representatives) to provide feedback on the application.

Comments:

- This act creates an unpaid working group that the Department of Transportation must convene; the working group may include legislators.

The above summary is not an official publication of the Wyoming Legislature and is not an official statement of legislative intent. While the Legislative Service Office endeavored to provide accurate information in this summary, it should not be relied upon as a comprehensive abstract of the bill.