

Bill No.: SF0076 **Effective:** **Multiple Dates**

LSO No.: 21LSO-0200

Enrolled Act No.: SEA No. 0065

Chapter No.: 139

Prime Sponsor: Dockstader

Catch Title: **Broadband development program-amendments.**

Subject: Amending application and funding requirements and expanding eligible projects for the Broadband Development Program.

Summary/Major Elements:

- In 2018, the Legislature enacted the Broadband Development Program, where the Wyoming Business Council was authorized to provide funds to eligible applicants in order to promote the expansion of access to broadband internet service in unserved areas of the state.
- This act amends various provisions of the Broadband Development Program.
- The act authorizes the Business Council to fund middle-mile projects (fiber-optic infrastructure to connect last-mile infrastructure) so long as there is no current middle-mile infrastructure, and the project would not result in an overbuild of infrastructure.
- The act amends broadband speed requirements for projects that would support broadband service in business areas.
- The act provides that state agencies can partner with private providers to seek project funding under the program, but state agencies are not authorized to apply individually for funding.
- This act amends application requirements to require applicants to submit shapefiles of the location and boundaries of the proposed project and to authorize the Business Council to request and receive additional information. The act repeals requirements for applicants to contact other providers within the proposed project area and solicit responses before applying.
- The act amends the challenge process by which providers can challenge an applicant's proposed project. The act requires the Business Council to notify certain providers of an application. The act amends requirements that a challenging provider must meet and amends the length of time a challenging provider is prohibited from applying for funding or challenging another project if the challenging provider fails to complete a project.

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