

# HOUSE BILL NO. 5038

June 16, 2021, Introduced by Reps. Coleman, Sabo, Aiyash, Sowerby, Scott, Puri, Weiss, Anthony, Morse, Brabec, Young, Hood, Cavanagh and Whitsett and referred to the Committee on Communications and Technology.

A bill to create the office of broadband and digital infrastructure; to prescribe the powers and duties of the office of broadband and digital infrastructure; to allow the provision of grants and other financial and technical assistance related to broadband and digital infrastructure; and to provide the powers and duties of certain state officers and entities.

## **THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1       Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
2       "broadband and digital infrastructure office act".

1       Sec. 2. As used in this act:

2       (a) "Broadband service" means a service, not including a  
3       satellite service, capable of delivering high-speed internet access  
4       that meets all of the following:

5       (i) Provides symmetrical upload and download speeds.

6       (ii) Provides low latency.

7       (iii) Provides reliable internet bandwidth that is capable of  
8       meeting the education, economic, and consumer needs of residents of  
9       this state.

10       (b) "Broadband service provider" means an entity that provides  
11       broadband service in this state.

12       (c) "Department" means the department of labor and economic  
13       opportunity.

14       (d) "Director" means the director of the office of broadband  
15       and digital infrastructure.

16       (e) "Modern broadband and digital infrastructure" means the  
17       technology and associated equipment used to provide broadband  
18       service.

19       (f) "Office" means the office of broadband and digital  
20       infrastructure created in section 3.

21       Sec. 3. (1) The office of broadband and digital infrastructure  
22       is created within the department.

23       (2) The governor shall appoint a director of the office of  
24       broadband and digital infrastructure. The individual appointed as  
25       the director must be qualified by training and experience to  
26       perform the duties and exercise the powers of the office and the  
27       director.

28       Sec. 5. The director shall establish procedures for the office  
29       for budgeting, expending money, and employing personnel according

1 to the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1101 to  
2 18.1594.

3 Sec. 7. The office may, upon appropriation, award grants or  
4 provide other financial and technical assistance to carry out the  
5 purposes of this act.

6 Sec. 9. The office shall do all of the following:

7 (a) Implement modern broadband and digital infrastructure  
8 duties assigned to the office and coordinate with other state  
9 departments responsible for modern broadband and digital  
10 infrastructure matters.

11 (b) Facilitate collaboration among public and private entities  
12 to encourage partnerships, regional coordination, and streamlined  
13 policies to increase modern broadband and digital infrastructure.

14 (c) Identify best practices and external resources to support  
15 modern broadband and digital infrastructure in this state.

16 (d) Provide capacity building and digital literacy resources  
17 to the public and entities seeking to expand broadband service and  
18 adoption.

19 (e) Promote and implement policies that utilize modern  
20 broadband and digital infrastructure to do any of the following:

21 (i) Revitalize neighborhoods and communities.

22 (ii) Support economic development opportunities.

23 (iii) Increase hiring and retention of skilled workers that  
24 support modern broadband and digital infrastructure in this state.

25 (iv) Integrate the deployment of modern broadband and digital  
26 infrastructure through existing infrastructure and economic  
27 development programs.

28 (f) Collect and analyze data to accurately determine the  
29 availability of broadband service, including the development of

1 methods that accurately identify parcel level wholesale and retail  
2 broadband infrastructure availability and adoption throughout this  
3 state.

4 (g) Issue reports on the status of broadband service market  
5 competition in different regions throughout this state that  
6 distinguish between the type and quality of broadband service  
7 provided and evaluate and provide recommendations on the wholesale  
8 and retail cost of broadband service.

9 (h) Serve as a point of contact between the public and  
10 broadband service providers to improve broadband service access,  
11 adoption, and transparency.