



HOUSE BILL 819: DIT Agency Bill.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 23, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Johnson, Blackwell, Hawkins, Winslow	Prepared by:	Matthew Meinig
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H819-CSMQ-3		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed committee Substitute (PCS) to House Bill 819 would make various changes to the laws that relate to broadband deployment and the Department of Information Technology.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1.1 of the PCS would exempt the State Highway Patrol from the provisions of Article 15 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, which provide that the Department of Information Technology is responsible for information technology services and procurement for State agencies.

Section 2.1 of the PCS makes changes to the Broadband Pole Replacement Program, enacted in S.L. 2021-180. The program criteria would be changed to include additional activities eligible for reimbursement and would expand eligible participants to include utilities and cooperatives.

Section 3.1 repeals the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology grant program for fixed wireless and satellite broadband.

Section 3.2 repeals the Satellite-Based Broadband Grant program.

Section 3.3 allows the Department of Information Technology to use funds available from the fixed wireless and satellite broadband grant programs to provide grants to (i) State agencies, (ii) local governments, (iii) volunteer fire departments, and (iv) anchor points to purchase installation materials for satellite internet service in areas affected by Hurricane Helene.

Section 3.4 allows the Department of Information Technology to provide up to \$50 million in emergency funding from funds available in the Broadband Make Ready Accelerator program and to use its emergency procurement authority to communications service providers to rebuild, repair, or replace broadband infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Helene.

Section 3.5 would give flexibility to the Department of Information Technology to spend funds from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund between several previously authorized broadband infrastructure grant programs.

Section 4.1 makes conforming changes to the State law that governs the Department of Information Technology's administration of federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program due to recent program changes at the federal level.

Section 4.2 would give the Utilities Commission greater authority to designate petitioning providers of mobile radio communications service as eligible for providing Lifeline service, a Federal Communications Commission program that helps make communications services more affordable.

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Director



Legislative Drafting
919-733-6660

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EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided in the PCS, the bill would become effective July 1, 2025.