



HOUSE BILL 289: DIT/Broadband Mapping -- Funds.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Appropriations. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 1, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. Arp, Reives, McElraft, Lambeth	Prepared by:	Jennifer McGinnis
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: House Bill 289 would (i) require that the Department of Information Technology (DIT) prepare and maintain statewide broadband maps and serve as the sole source provider for broadband mapping for State agencies and (ii) appropriate funds to DIT for that purpose.

CURRENT LAW:

The Office of Broadband Infrastructure (Office) in DIT administers the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) program for broadband infrastructure grants. The Office is the designated agency for receipt and disbursement of federal grant funds intended for the State for broadband expansion and is required to seek available federal grant funds for that purpose.

The State's Chief Information Officer is given authority under statute to exercise authority for telecommunications and other communications included in information technology for State agencies, including broadband.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 289 would:

- Modify the powers and duties of DIT to require that it prepare and maintain statewide broadband maps incorporating current and future federal data along with State data collected by the Department or provided to the Department from other sources to identify the capabilities and needs related to broadband distribution and access, and serve as the sole source provider of broadband mapping for State agencies.
- Direct that the Office serve as the designated agency for the receipt of all State, federal, and private grants, gifts, or matching funds for broadband mapping. But, provide that such funds received must remain unexpended until appropriated by an act of the General Assembly.
- Appropriate \$1,000,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year from the General Fund to DIT to be used for broadband mapping.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill would be effective when it becomes law.

Jennifer McGinnis, counsel to House Energy and Public Utilities, substantially contributed to this summary.

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