



SENATE BILL 105: 2021 Appropriations Act, Sec. 38.8: Broadband Mapping

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	February 22, 2022
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Aaron McGlothlin Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Sec. 38.8 of S.L. 2021-180		

OVERVIEW: *Section 38.8 of S.L. 2021-180 directs the Department of Information Technology (Department) to prepare and maintain statewide broadband maps and serve as the sole provider for broadband mapping for State agencies.*

This section became effective July 1, 2021.

CURRENT LAW:

The Office of Broadband Infrastructure (Office) in the Department 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:

Section 38.8 does the following:

- Modifies the powers and duties of the Department to require that it prepare and maintain statewide broadband maps, incorporating current and future federal data along with State data collected by or provided to the Department to identify the capabilities and needs related to broadband distribution and access.
- Directs the Department to serve as the sole source provider of broadband mapping for State agencies.
- Directs 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. However, such funds received must remain unexpended until appropriated by an act of the General Assembly.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This section became effective July 1, 2021.

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