



HOUSE BILL 197: Broadband Changes/DIT.

**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee: House State Government. If favorable, re-refer to Energy and Public Utilities. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House **Date:** April 27, 2023

Introduced by: Rep. Johnson **Prepared by:** Howard Marsilio
Analysis of: PCS to First Edition Staff Attorney
H197-CSBG-14

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute for House Bill 197 would make various changes to the laws that relate to broadband deployment and the Department of Information Technology.*

CURRENT LAW: Section 38.5 of S.L. 2021-180, as subsequently amended, provides for grant funding for internet service providers, local government entities, and nonprofits for the provision and installation of infrastructure for the provision of broadband service to underserved households in this State.

Section 38.4 of S.L. 2021-180, as subsequently amended, appropriates and outlines use guidelines for grant funding through the Department of Information Technology for broadband infrastructure, and authorizes the use of a portion of certain funds for planning and administration of proposals and applications for funding or grants under federal programs, whereas other funds received under those programs remain unexpended until appropriated by the General Assembly.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 of the bill would amend Section 38.5 of S.L. 2021-180, as subsequently amended, to add unserved and underserved businesses, State facilities, and community anchor institutions within the stated purpose for grant funding.

Section 2 of the bill would amend Section 38.4 of S.L. 2021-180, as subsequently amended, to clarify that any Digital Equity planning funds may be used for the purpose of administration and proposals for federal funding and grant applications.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective when it becomes law.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



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Legislative Analysis
Division
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