

50.26

ARTICLE 3

50.27

BROADBAND

50.28

Section 1. BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS.

51.1

The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies

51.2

and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the general fund,

51.3

or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.

51.4

The figures "2024" and "2025" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under

51.5

them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, respectively.

51.6

"The first year" is fiscal year 2024. "The second year" is fiscal year 2025. "The biennium"

51.7

is fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

51.8

51.9

51.10

51.11

51.12

Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

51.13

AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$

75,350,000

\$

50,350,000

51.14

(a) \$350,000 each year is for the Office of

51.15

Broadband Development.

51.16

(b) \$55,000,000 the first year and \$30,000,000

51.17

the second year are transferred from the

51.18

general fund to the border-to-border broadband

51.19

fund account established in Minnesota

51.20

Statutes, section 116J.396. These transfers are

51.21

onetime.

51.22

(c) \$20,000,000 the first year and \$20,000,000

51.23

the second year are appropriated to the

51.24

commissioner for the lower population density

51.25

grant program to award grants to provide

51.26

broadband service to unserved and

51.27

underserved areas of the state where a 50

51.28

percent match formula is not adequate to make

51.29

a business case for the extension of broadband

51.30

facilities. Grants awarded under this paragraph

73.9

ARTICLE 3

73.10

BROADBAND

73.11

Section 1. BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS.

73.12

The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies

73.13

and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the general fund,

73.14

or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.

73.15

The figures "2024" and "2025" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under

73.16

them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, respectively.

73.17

"The first year" is fiscal year 2024. "The second year" is fiscal year 2025. "The biennium"

73.18

is fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

73.19

73.20

73.21

73.22

73.23

Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

73.24

AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$

73,350,000

\$

50,350,000

73.25

(a) \$350,000 each year is for the Office of

73.26

Broadband Development.

73.27

(b) \$75,000,000 the first year and \$50,000,000

73.28

the second year are for transfer to the

73.29

border-to-border broadband fund account

73.30

established in Minnesota Statutes, section

73.31

116J.396. Of the amount transferred each year,

73.32

\$20,000,000 is for lower population density

73.33

program grants under Minnesota Statutes,

74.1

section 116J.3952. This is a onetime

74.2

appropriation.

51.31 may fund up to 75 percent of the total cost of
51.32 a project and must otherwise adhere to
51.33 Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.395,
51.34 subdivisions 1 to 6; subdivision 7, paragraph
51.35 (b); and subdivision 8. These appropriations
51.36 are onetime.

52.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 116J.395, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

52.2 Subd. 7. **Limitation.** (a) No grant awarded under this section may fund more than 50
52.3 percent of the total cost of a project.

52.4 (b) Grants awarded to a single project under this section must not exceed ~~\$5,000,000~~
52.5 \$10,000,000.

52.6 Sec. 4. **[116J.3952] LOWER POPULATION DENSITY GRANT PROGRAM.**

52.7 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** A lower population density grant program is established
52.8 in the Department of Employment and Economic Development. The purpose of the lower
52.9 population density grant program is to provide broadband service to unserved and
52.10 underserved areas of the state where a 50 percent match formula is not adequate to make a
52.11 business case for the extension of broadband facilities.

52.12 Subd. 2. **Grants.** Grants awarded under this section may fund up to 75 percent of the
52.13 total cost of a project and must otherwise adhere to section 116J.395, subdivisions 1 to 6
52.14 and subdivision 7, paragraph (b).

52.15 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 116J.396, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

52.16 Subd. 2. **Expenditures.** Money in the account may be used only:

52.17 (1) for grant awards made under sections 116J.395 ~~and to 116J.3951~~ 116J.3952, including
52.18 costs incurred by the Department of Employment and Economic Development to administer
52.19 that section;

52.20 (2) to supplement revenues raised by bonds sold by local units of government for
52.21 broadband infrastructure development; or

52.22 (3) to contract for the collection of broadband deployment data from providers and the
52.23 creation of maps showing the availability of broadband service.

52.24 Sec. 6. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

52.25 This act is effective July 1, 2023.

74.3 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 116J.395, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

74.4 Subd. 7. **Limitation.** (a) No grant awarded under this section may fund more than 50
74.5 percent of the total cost of a project.

74.6 (b) Grants awarded to a single project under this section must not exceed ~~\$5,000,000~~
74.7 \$10,000,000.

74.8 Sec. 4. **[116J.3952] LOWER POPULATION DENSITY GRANT PROGRAM.**

74.9 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** A lower population density grant program is established
74.10 in the Department of Employment and Economic Development. The purpose of the lower
74.11 population density grant program is to provide broadband service to unserved and
74.12 underserved areas of the state where a 50 percent match formula is not adequate to make a
74.13 business case for the extension of broadband facilities.

74.14 Subd. 2. **Grants.** Grants awarded under this section may fund up to 75 percent of the
74.15 total cost of a project and must otherwise adhere to section 116J.395, subdivisions 1 to 6
74.16 and subdivision 7, paragraph (b).

74.17 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 116J.396, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

74.18 Subd. 2. **Expenditures.** Money in the account may be used only:

74.19 (1) for grant awards made under sections 116J.395 ~~and to 116J.3951~~ 116J.3952, including
74.20 costs incurred by the Department of Employment and Economic Development to administer
74.21 that section;

74.22 (2) to supplement revenues raised by bonds sold by local units of government for
74.23 broadband infrastructure development; or

74.24 (3) to contract for the collection of broadband deployment data from providers and the
74.25 creation of maps showing the availability of broadband service.

- 74.26 Sec. 6. Laws 2022, chapter 95, article 4, section 2, is amended to read:
74.27 Sec. 2. **LOWER POPULATION DENSITY PILOT PROGRAM.**
- 74.28 (a) The commissioner of employment and economic development must establish a pilot
74.29 program to provide broadband service to unserved and underserved areas, as defined in
75.1 Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.394, of the state where a 50 percent match formula is not
75.2 adequate to make a business case for the extension of broadband facilities. Grants awarded
75.3 under this section shall adhere to all other requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section
75.4 116J.395, subdivisions 1 to 6, and may fund up to 75 percent of the total cost of a project,
75.5 notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes section 116J.395, subdivision 7. Grants awarded to a
75.6 single project under this section may not exceed \$10,000,000.
- 75.7 (b) The commissioner of employment and economic development may use up to
75.8 \$30,000,000 from the appropriations in sections 3 and 4 for the lower population density
75.9 pilot program under paragraph (a).
- 75.10 (c) No later than December 31, 2023, the Office of Broadband Development must submit
75.11 a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives
75.12 committees with primary jurisdiction over broadband policy and finance analyzing the
75.13 impacts of this section on the number and amounts of grants awarded under Minnesota
75.14 Statutes, section 116J.395.
- 75.15 (d) This section expires December 31, 2026.