ESHB 1673 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology

ADOPTED 03/04/2022

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the 2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 43.155.160 and 2021 c 332 s 7040 are each amended 4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The board, in collaboration with the office, shall establish 6 a competitive grant and loan program to award funding to eligible 7 applicants in order to promote the expansion of access to broadband 8 service in unserved areas of the state.

9 (2)(a) Grants and loans may be awarded under this section to 10 assist in funding acquisition, installation, and construction of 11 middle mile and last mile infrastructure that supports broadband 12 services and to assist in funding strategic planning for deploying 13 broadband service in unserved areas.

(b) The board may choose to fund all or part of an application for funding, provided that the application meets the requirements of subsection ((-9)) (11) of this section.

17 (3) Eligible applicants for grants and loans awarded under this 18 section include:

- 19 (a) Local governments;
- 20 (b) Tribes;
- 21 (c) Nonprofit organizations;
- 22 (d) Cooperative associations;

23 (e) Multiparty entities comprised of public entity members;

24 (f) Limited liability corporations organized for the purpose of 25 expanding broadband access; and

26

(g) Incorporated businesses or partnerships.

(4) (a) The board shall develop administrative procedures governing the ((application)) preapplication and award process. The board shall act as fiscal agent for the program and is responsible for receiving and reviewing applications and awarding funds under this section.

1 (b) At least sixty days prior to the first day ((applications)) preapplications may be submitted each fiscal year, the board must 2 publish on its website the specific criteria and any quantitative 3 weighting scheme or scoring system that the board will use to 4 evaluate or rank applications and award funding. 5

6 (c) The board may maintain separate accounting in the statewide broadband account created in RCW 43.155.165 as the board deems 7 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. 8

(d) The board must provide a method for the allocation of loans, 9 grants, provision of technical assistance, and interest rates under 10 11 this section.

12 (5) An applicant for a grant or loan under this section must provide the following information on 13 the ((application)) 14 preapplication:

15

(a) The location and description of the project;

16 (b) Evidence regarding the unserved nature of the community in 17 which the project is to be located;

(c) Evidence that proposed infrastructure will be capable of 18 19 scaling to greater download and upload speeds;

(d) The number of households passed that will gain access to 20 21 broadband service as a result of the project or whose broadband service will be upgraded as a result of the project; 22

23 (e) ((The estimated cost of retail services to end users 24 facilitated by a project;

25 (f) The proposed actual download and upload speeds experienced by 26 end users;

27 (g) Evidence of significant community institutions that will 28 benefit from the proposed project;

(h) Anticipated economic, educational, health care, or public 29 30 safety benefits created by the project;

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(i) Evidence of community support for the project;

32 (j) If available, a description of the applicant's user adoption assistance program and efforts to promote the use of newly available 33 broadband services created by the project; 34

(k) The estimated total cost of the project; 35

(1) Other sources of funding for the project that will supplement 36 any grant or loan award; 37

(m) A demonstration of the project's long-term sustainability, 38

including the applicant's financial soundness, organizational 39

40 capacity, and technical expertise;

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1 (n) A strategic plan to maintain long-term operation of the 2 infrastructure;

3 (o)) Evidence that ((no later than six weeks)) before submission 4 of the application, the applicant contacted, in writing, all entities 5 providing broadband service near the proposed project area to ask 6 each broadband service provider's plan to upgrade broadband service 7 in the project area to speeds that meet or exceed the state's 8 definition for broadband service as defined in RCW 43.330.530, within 9 the time frame specified in the proposed grant or loan activities;

- 10 (((p))) <u>(f)</u> If applicable, the broadband service providers' 11 written responses to the inquiry made under (((o))) <u>(e)</u> of this 12 subsection; ((and
- 13 (q)) (g) The proposed geographic broadband service area and the 14 proposed broadband speeds in the form and manner prescribed by the 15 board;
- 16 (h) Evidence of community support for the project; and
 - (i) Any additional information requested by the board.
- 18 (6) <u>An applicant for a grant or loan under this section must</u>
 19 provide the following information on the application:
- 20 (a) ((Within thirty days of the close of the grant and loan 21 application process, the)) The final location and description of the 22 project;
- 23 (b) Evidence that the proposed infrastructure will be capable of 24 scaling to greater download and upload speeds;
- 25 (c) The number of households passed that will gain access to 26 broadband service as a result of the project or whose broadband 27 service will be upgraded as a result of the project;
- 28 (d) The estimated cost of retail services to end users
 29 facilitated by a project;
- 30 (e) The proposed actual download and upload speeds experienced by 31 end users;
- 32 (f) Evidence of significant community institutions that will 33 benefit from the proposed project;
- 34 (g) Anticipated economic, educational, health care, or public 35 safety benefits created by the project;
- 36 (h) If available, a description of the applicant's user adoption 37 assistance program and efforts to promote the use of newly available 38 broadband services created by the project;
- 39 (i) The estimated total cost of the project;

17

1 (j) Other sources of funding for the project that will supplement
2 any grant or loan award;

3 <u>(k) A demonstration of the project's long-term sustainability,</u>
4 <u>including the applicant's financial soundness, organizational</u>
5 <u>capacity, and technical expertise;</u>

6 <u>(1) A strategic plan to maintain long-term operation of the</u> 7 <u>infrastructure;</u>

8 (m) If applicable, documentation describing the outcome of the 9 broadband service providers' written responses to the inquiry made 10 prior to or during the preapplication phase; and

(n) Any additional information requested by the board.

12 <u>(7) (a) The</u> board shall publish on its website <u>for at least 30</u> 13 <u>days</u> the proposed geographic broadband service area and the proposed 14 broadband speeds for each ((application)) proposed broadband project 15 submitted <u>in the preapplication period</u>.

16 (b) The board shall, within three business days following the 17 close of the preapplication cycle, publish on its website 18 preapplications as described in subsection (5) of this section.

- (c) The board shall set an objection period of at least 30 days.
- 20 ((-(b))) (8) (a) Any existing broadband service provider near the 21 proposed project area may((, within thirty days of publication of the 22 information under (a) of this subsection,) submit in writing to the 23 board an objection to ((an application)) a proposed broadband 24 project. An objection must contain information demonstrating that:

(i) The project would result in overbuild, meaning that the objecting provider currently provides, or has begun construction to provide, broadband service to end users in the proposed project area at speeds equal to or greater than ((the state speed goals contained in RCW 43.330.536)) the speeds contained in the definition of broadband in RCW 43.330.530(2); or

31 (ii) The objecting provider commits to complete construction of 32 broadband infrastructure and provide broadband service to end users in the proposed project area at speeds equal to or greater than ((the 33 34 state speed goals contained in RCW 43.330.536)) the speeds contained in the definition of broadband in RCW 43.330.530(2), no later than 35 twenty-four months after the date awards are made under this section 36 37 for the grant and loan cycle under which the ((application)) preapplication was submitted. 38

39 (((c))) <u>(b)</u> Objections submitted to the board under this 40 subsection must be certified by affidavit.

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1 (((d))) <u>(c)</u> The board may evaluate the information submitted under this section by the objecting provider and must consider it in 2 making a determination on the ((application)) proposed broadband 3 project objected to. The board may request clarification 4 or additional information. The board may choose to not fund a project if 5 6 the board determines that the objecting provider's commitment to provide broadband service that meets the requirements of $\left(\frac{b}{b}\right)$ (a) 7 of this subsection in the proposed project area is credible. 8 In assessing the commitment, the board may consider whether the 9 objecting provider has or will provide a bond, letter of credit, or 10 11 other indicia of financial commitment guaranteeing the project's 12 completion.

(((e))) <u>(d)</u> If the board denies funding to an applicant as a 13 result of a broadband service provider's objection made under this 14 section, and the broadband service provider does not fulfill its 15 16 commitment to provide broadband service in the project area, then for 17 the following two grant and loan cycles, the board is prohibited from denying funding to an applicant on the basis of a challenge by the 18 19 same broadband service provider, unless the board determines that the broadband service provider's failure to fulfill the provider's 20 commitment was the result of factors beyond the broadband service 21 provider's control. The board is not prohibited from denying funding 22 to an applicant for reasons other than an objection by the same 23 broadband service provider. 24

25 (((f))) <u>(e)</u> An applicant or broadband service provider that 26 objected to the application may request a debriefing conference 27 regarding the board's decision on the application. Requests for 28 debriefing must be coordinated by the office and must be submitted in 29 writing in accordance with procedures specified by the office.

30 (((g))) <u>(f)</u> Confidential business and financial information 31 submitted by an objecting provider under this subsection is exempt 32 from disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW.

33 (((7))) <u>(9)</u>(a) In evaluating applications and awarding funds, the 34 board shall give priority to applications that are constructed in 35 areas identified as unserved.

36 (b) In evaluating applications and awarding funds, the board may 37 give priority to applications that:

(i) Provide assistance to public-private partnerships deploying
 broadband infrastructure from areas currently served with broadband
 service to areas currently lacking access to broadband services;

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- (ii) Demonstrate project readiness to proceed;

2 (iii) Construct infrastructure that is open access, meaning that 3 during the useful life of the infrastructure, service providers may 4 use network services and facilities at rates, terms, and conditions 5 that are not discriminatory or preferential between providers, and 6 employing accountable interconnection arrangements published and 7 available publicly;

8 (iv) Are submitted by tribal governments whose reservations are 9 in rural and remote areas where reliable and efficient broadband 10 services are unavailable to many or most residents;

(v) Bring broadband service to tribal lands, particularly to rural and remote tribal lands or areas servicing rural and remote tribal entities;

(vi) Are submitted by tribal governments in rural and remote areas that have spent significant amounts of tribal funds to address the problem but cannot provide necessary broadband services without either additional state support, additional federal support, or both;

18 (vii) Serve economically distressed areas of the state as the 19 term "distressed area" is defined in RCW 43.168.020;

20 (viii) Offer new or substantially upgraded broadband service to 21 important community anchor institutions including, but not limited 22 to, libraries, educational institutions, public safety facilities, 23 and health care facilities;

(ix) Facilitate the use of telemedicine and electronic health records, especially in deliverance of behavioral health services and services to veterans;

(x) Provide technical support and train residents, businesses,
and institutions in the community served by the project to utilize
broadband service;

30 (xi) Include a component to actively promote the adoption of 31 newly available broadband services in the community;

32 (xii) Provide evidence of strong support for the project from 33 citizens, government, businesses, and community institutions;

34 (xiii) Provide access to broadband service to a greater number of 35 unserved households and businesses, including farms;

36 (xiv) Utilize equipment and technology demonstrating greater 37 longevity of service;

38 (xv) Seek the lowest amount of state investment per new location 39 served and leverage greater amounts of funding for the project from 40 other private and public sources;

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(xvi) Include evidence of a customer service plan;

2 (xvii) Consider leveraging existing broadband infrastructure and 3 other unique solutions;

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(xviii) Benefit public safety and fire preparedness; or

5 (xix) Demonstrate other priorities as the board, in collaboration 6 with the office, may prescribe by rule.

7 (c) The board shall endeavor to award funds under this section to 8 qualified applicants in all regions of the state.

9 (d) The board shall consider affordability and quality of service 10 to end users in making a determination on any application.

(e) The board, in collaboration with the office, may develop additional rules for eligibility, <u>project preapplications</u>, project applications, the associated objection process, and funding priority, as provided under this subsection and subsections (3), (5), ((and)) (6), (7), and (8) of this section.

(f) The board, in collaboration with the office, may adopt rules for a voluntary nonbinding mediation between incumbent providers and applicants to the grant and loan program created in this section.

19 (((8))) <u>(10)</u> To ensure a grant or loan to a private entity under 20 this section primarily serves the public interest and benefits the 21 public, any such grant or loan must be conditioned on a guarantee 22 that the asset or infrastructure to be developed will be maintained 23 for public use for a period of at least fifteen years.

24 (((9))) <u>(11)</u>(a) No funds awarded under this section may fund more 25 than fifty percent of the total cost of the project, except as 26 provided in (b) of this subsection.

(b) The board may choose to fund up to ninety percent of the total cost of a project in financially distressed areas as the term "distressed area" is defined in RCW 43.168.020, and in areas identified as Indian country as the term "Indian country" is defined in WAC 458-20-192.

32 (c) Funds awarded to a single project under this section must not 33 exceed two million dollars, except that the board may choose to fund 34 projects qualifying for the exception in (b) of this subsection up 35 to, but not to exceed, five million dollars.

36 (((10) Except for during the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, prior to 37 awarding funds under this section, the board must consult with the 38 Washington utilities and transportation commission. The commission 39 must provide to the board an assessment of the technical feasibility

1 of a proposed application. The board must consider the commission's 2 assessment as part of its evaluation of a proposed application.

3 (11)) (12) The board shall have such rights of recovery in the 4 event of default in payment or other breach of financing agreement as 5 may be provided in the agreement or otherwise by law.

6 (((12))) <u>(13)</u> The community economic revitalization board shall 7 facilitate the timely transmission of information and documents from 8 its broadband program to the board in order to effectuate an orderly 9 transition.

10 (((13))) (14) (a) Subject to rules promulgated by the board, the 11 board may make low-interest or interest-free loans or grants to 12 eligible applicants for emergency public works broadband projects. 13 While developing rules, the board shall consider prioritizing 14 broadband infrastructure projects that replace existing 15 infrastructure impacted by an emergency, as described in (b) of this 16 subsection.

17 (b) Emergency public works broadband projects include construction, repair, reconstruction, replacement, rehabilitation, or 18 19 improvement to critical broadband infrastructure that has been made necessary by a natural disaster or damaged by unforeseen events. To 20 ensure limited resources are provided as efficiently as possible, the 21 board shall grant priority to emergency public works projects that 22 23 replace existing infrastructure of the provider whose facilities were damaged by the unforeseen event and shall not provide funds to a new 24 25 provider to overbuild the existing provider. The loans or grants may be used to help fund all or part of an emergency public works 26 27 broadband infrastructure project less any reimbursement from any of 28 the following sources: (i) Federal disaster or emergency funds, including funds from the federal emergency management agency; (ii) 29 30 state disaster or emergency funds; (iii) insurance settlements; and 31 (iv) litigation.

32 (c) Eligible applicants for grants and loans awarded under this 33 subsection are the same as those described in subsection (3) of this 34 section.

35 <u>(15)</u> The definitions in RCW 43.330.530 apply throughout this 36 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

37 (16) For purposes of this section, a "proposed broadband project" 38 means a project that has been submitted as a preapplication to the 39 public works board.

1 Sec. 2. RCW 42.56.270 and 2021 c 308 s 4 are each amended to 2 read as follows:

3 The following financial, commercial, and proprietary information 4 is exempt from disclosure under this chapter:

5 (1) Valuable formulae, designs, drawings, computer source code or 6 object code, and research data obtained by any agency within five 7 years of the request for disclosure when disclosure would produce 8 private gain and public loss;

9 (2) Financial information supplied by or on behalf of a person, 10 firm, or corporation for the purpose of qualifying to submit a bid or 11 proposal for (a) a ferry system construction or repair contract as 12 required by RCW 47.60.680 through 47.60.750; (b) highway construction 13 or improvement as required by RCW 47.28.070; or (c) alternative 14 public works contracting procedures as required by RCW 39.10.200 15 through 39.10.905;

16 (3) Financial and commercial information and records supplied by 17 private persons pertaining to export services provided under chapters 18 43.163 and 53.31 RCW, and by persons pertaining to export projects 19 under RCW 43.23.035;

(4) Financial and commercial information and records supplied by
businesses or individuals during application for loans or program
services provided by chapters 43.325, 43.163, 43.160, 43.330, and
43.168 RCW and RCW 43.155.160, or during application for economic
development loans or program services provided by any local agency;

(5) Financial information, business plans, examination reports, and any information produced or obtained in evaluating or examining a business and industrial development corporation organized or seeking certification under chapter 31.24 RCW;

(6) Financial and commercial information supplied to the state investment board by any person when the information relates to the investment of public trust or retirement funds and when disclosure would result in loss to such funds or in private loss to the providers of this information;

34 (7) Financial and valuable trade information under RCW 51.36.120;

35 (8) Financial, commercial, operations, and technical and research 36 information and data submitted to or obtained by the clean Washington 37 center in applications for, or delivery of, program services under 38 chapter 70.95H RCW;

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(9) Financial and commercial information requested by the public
 stadium authority from any person or organization that leases or uses
 the stadium and exhibition center as defined in RCW 36.102.010;

4 (10)(a) Financial information, including but not limited to
5 account numbers and values, and other identification numbers supplied
6 by or on behalf of a person, firm, corporation, limited liability
7 company, partnership, or other entity related to an application for a
8 horse racing license submitted pursuant to RCW 67.16.260(1)(b),
9 marijuana producer, processor, or retailer license, liquor license,
10 gambling license, or lottery retail license;

(b) Internal control documents, independent auditors' reports and financial statements, and supporting documents: (i) Of house-banked social card game licensees required by the gambling commission pursuant to rules adopted under chapter 9.46 RCW; or (ii) submitted by tribes with an approved tribal/state compact for class III gaming;

16 (c) Valuable formulae or financial or proprietary commercial 17 information records received during a consultative visit or while 18 providing consultative services to a licensed marijuana business in 19 accordance with RCW 69.50.561;

(11) Proprietary data, trade secrets, or other information that 20 21 relates to: (a) A vendor's unique methods of conducting business; (b) data unique to the product or services of the vendor; or (c) 22 determining prices or rates to be charged for services, submitted by 23 any vendor to the department of social and health services or the 24 25 health care authority for purposes of the development, acquisition, 26 or implementation of state purchased health care as defined in RCW 41.05.011; 27

28 (12)(a) When supplied to and in the records of the department of 29 commerce:

30 (i) Financial and proprietary information collected from any 31 person and provided to the department of commerce pursuant to RCW 32 43.330.050(8);

(ii) Financial or proprietary information collected from any person and provided to the department of commerce or the office of the governor in connection with the siting, recruitment, expansion, retention, or relocation of that person's business and until a siting decision is made, identifying information of any person supplying information under this subsection and the locations being considered for siting, relocation, or expansion of a business; and

1 (iii) Financial or proprietary information collected from any 2 person and provided to the department of commerce pursuant to RCW 3 43.31.625 (3)(b) and (4);

4 (b) When developed by the department of commerce based on 5 information as described in (a)(i) of this subsection, any work 6 product is not exempt from disclosure;

7 (c) For the purposes of this subsection, "siting decision" means 8 the decision to acquire or not to acquire a site;

9 (d) If there is no written contact for a period of sixty days to 10 the department of commerce from a person connected with siting, 11 recruitment, expansion, retention, or relocation of that person's 12 business, information described in (a)(ii) of this subsection will be 13 available to the public under this chapter;

14 (13) Financial and proprietary information submitted to or 15 obtained by the department of ecology or the authority created under 16 chapter 70A.500 RCW to implement chapter 70A.500 RCW;

(14) Financial, commercial, operations, and technical and research information and data submitted to or obtained by the life sciences discovery fund authority in applications for, or delivery of, grants under RCW 43.330.502, to the extent that such information, if revealed, would reasonably be expected to result in private loss to the providers of this information;

(15) Financial and commercial information provided as evidence to the department of licensing as required by RCW 19.112.110 or 19.112.120, except information disclosed in aggregate form that does not permit the identification of information related to individual fuel licensees;

(16) Any production records, mineral assessments, and trade
 secrets submitted by a permit holder, mine operator, or landowner to
 the department of natural resources under RCW 78.44.085;

31 (17)(a) Farm plans developed by conservation districts, unless 32 permission to release the farm plan is granted by the landowner or 33 operator who requested the plan, or the farm plan is used for the 34 application or issuance of a permit;

35 (b) Farm plans developed under chapter 90.48 RCW and not under 36 the federal clean water act, 33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251 et seq., are subject 37 to RCW 42.56.610 and 90.64.190;

38 (18) Financial, commercial, operations, and technical and 39 research information and data submitted to or obtained by a health 40 sciences and services authority in applications for, or delivery of, Code Rev/KS:akl 11 S-4845.1/22 1 grants under RCW 35.104.010 through 35.104.060, to the extent that 2 such information, if revealed, would reasonably be expected to result 3 in private loss to providers of this information;

4 (19) Information gathered under chapter 19.85 RCW or RCW 5 34.05.328 that can be identified to a particular business;

6 (20)Financial and commercial information submitted to or obtained by the University of Washington, other than information the 7 university is required to disclose under RCW 28B.20.150, when the 8 information relates to investments in private funds, to the extent 9 that such information, if revealed, would reasonably be expected to 10 11 result in loss to the University of Washington consolidated endowment 12 fund or to result in private loss to the providers of this information; 13

14 (21) Market share data submitted by a manufacturer under RCW 15 70A.500.190(4);

16 (22) Financial information supplied to the department of 17 financial institutions, when filed by or on behalf of an issuer of 18 securities for the purpose of obtaining the exemption from state 19 securities registration for small securities offerings provided under 20 RCW 21.20.880 or when filed by or on behalf of an investor for the 21 purpose of purchasing such securities;

(23) Unaggregated or individual notices of a transfer of crude oil that is financial, proprietary, or commercial information, submitted to the department of ecology pursuant to RCW 90.56.565(1)(a), and that is in the possession of the department of ecology or any entity with which the department of ecology has shared the notice pursuant to RCW 90.56.565;

(24) Financial institution and retirement account information, and building security plan information, supplied to the liquor and cannabis board pursuant to RCW 69.50.325, 69.50.331, 69.50.342, and 69.50.345, when filed by or on behalf of a licensee or prospective licensee for the purpose of obtaining, maintaining, or renewing a license to produce, process, transport, or sell marijuana as allowed under chapter 69.50 RCW;

(25) Marijuana transport information, vehicle and driver 35 identification data, and account numbers or unique access identifiers 36 issued to private entities for traceability system access, submitted 37 38 by an individual or business to the liquor and cannabis board under 39 the requirements of RCW 69.50.325, 69.50.331, 69.50.342, and 69.50.345 for the purpose of marijuana product traceability. 40 Code Rev/KS:akl 12 S-4845.1/22

Disclosure to local, state, and federal officials is not considered
 public disclosure for purposes of this section;

3 Financial and commercial information submitted to or (26)obtained by the retirement board of any city that is responsible for 4 the management of an employees' retirement system pursuant to the 5 6 authority of chapter 35.39 RCW, when the information relates to investments in private funds, to the extent that such information, if 7 revealed, would reasonably be expected to result in loss to the 8 retirement fund or to result in private loss to the providers of this 9 information except that (a) the names and commitment amounts of the 10 private funds in which retirement funds are invested and (b) the 11 12 aggregate quarterly performance results for a retirement fund's portfolio of investments in such funds are subject to disclosure; 13

14 (27) Proprietary financial, commercial, operations, and technical 15 and research information and data submitted to or obtained by the 16 liquor and cannabis board in applications for marijuana research 17 licenses under RCW 69.50.372, or in reports submitted by marijuana 18 research licensees in accordance with rules adopted by the liquor and 19 cannabis board under RCW 69.50.372;

20 (28) Trade secrets, technology, proprietary information, and 21 financial considerations contained in any agreements or contracts, 22 entered into by a licensed marijuana business under RCW 69.50.395, 23 which may be submitted to or obtained by the state liquor and 24 cannabis board;

(29) Financial, commercial, operations, and technical and research information and data submitted to or obtained by the Andy Hill cancer research endowment program in applications for, or delivery of, grants under chapter 43.348 RCW, to the extent that such information, if revealed, would reasonably be expected to result in private loss to providers of this information;

31 (30) Proprietary information filed with the department of health 32 under chapter 69.48 RCW;

33 (31) Records filed with the department of ecology under chapter 34 70A.515 RCW that a court has determined are confidential valuable 35 commercial information under RCW 70A.515.130; and

36 (32) Unaggregated financial, proprietary, or commercial 37 information submitted to or obtained by the liquor and cannabis board 38 in applications for licenses under RCW 66.24.140 or 66.24.145, or in 39 any reports or remittances submitted by a person licensed under RCW

- 1 66.24.140 or 66.24.145 under rules adopted by the liquor and cannabis
- 2 board under chapter 66.08 RCW."

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By Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology

ADOPTED 03/04/2022

On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "board;" strike the remainder of the title and insert "and amending RCW 43.155.160 and 42.56.270."

<u>EFFECT:</u> Specifies the Public Works Board must grant priority to emergency public works projects that replace existing infrastructure of the provider whose facilities were damaged by the unforeseen event and shall not provide funds to a new provider to overbuild the existing provider.

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