
HOUSE BILL 2016

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Tharinger and Parshley

Read first time 02/21/25. Referred to Committee on Capital Budget.

1 AN ACT Relating to additive capital budget funding for state
2 matching funds and federal expenditure authority for the broadband
3 equity, access, and deployment program; amending RCW 43.330.400;
4 creating new sections; repealing 2023 c 474 ss 6082 and 7017 and 2024
5 c 375 s 1004 (uncodified); making appropriations; providing an
6 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) An additive capital budget is hereby
9 adopted and, subject to the provisions set forth in this act, the
10 several dollar amounts hereinafter specified, or so much thereof as
11 shall be sufficient to accomplish the purposes designated, are hereby
12 appropriated and authorized to be incurred for capital projects
13 during the period beginning with the effective date of this act and
14 ending June 30, 2027, out of the several funds specified in this act.

15 (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this act
16 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

17 (a) "Fiscal year 2025" or "FY 2025" means the period beginning
18 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.

19 (b) "Fiscal year 2026" or "FY 2026" means the period beginning
20 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

1 (c) "Fiscal year 2027" or "FY 2027" means the period beginning
2 July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.

3 (d) "Lapse" or "revert" means the amount shall return to an
4 unappropriated status.

5 (e) "Provided solely" means the specified amount may be spent
6 only for the specified purpose.

7 (3) Unless otherwise specifically authorized in this act, any
8 portion of an amount provided solely for a specified purpose that is
9 not expended subject to the specified conditions and limitations to
10 fulfill the specified purpose shall lapse.

11 (4) The amounts shown under the headings "Prior Biennia," "Future
12 Biennia," and "Total" in this act are for informational purposes only
13 and do not constitute legislative approval of these amounts. "Prior
14 biennia" typically refers to the immediate prior biennium for
15 reappropriations, but may refer to multiple biennia in the case of
16 specific projects. A "future biennia" amount means an estimate of
17 what may be appropriated for the project or program in the 2027-2029
18 fiscal biennium and the following three biennia; an amount of zero
19 does not necessarily constitute legislative intent to not provide
20 funding for the project or program in the future.

21 (5) "Reappropriations" in this act are appropriations and, unless
22 the context clearly provides otherwise, are subject to the relevant
23 conditions and limitations applicable to appropriations.
24 Reappropriations are limited to the unexpended balances remaining on
25 June 30, 2025, from the 2023-2025 fiscal biennial appropriations for
26 each project.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2. FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

28 Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (40000290)

29 The appropriations in this section are subject to the following
30 conditions and limitations:

31 (1) (a) \$280,000,000 of the federal broadband account—state
32 appropriation in this section is provided solely as match for federal
33 authority allocated under this section for the statewide broadband
34 office to administer the broadband equity, access, and deployment
35 state grants program in section 60102 of P.L. 117-58 (infrastructure
36 investment and jobs act). Expenditure of the amount in this
37 subsection is contingent on the receipt of this grant funding.

1 (b) To the extent permitted by federal law, the office shall
2 provide state match only for projects where the lead applicant is a
3 public or tribal government entity. The office must allocate state
4 match funds in a manner that prioritizes projects based on
5 affordability, fair labor practices, speed to deployment, open
6 access, local and tribal coordination, and the provision of digital
7 navigation services, as outlined in the scoring criteria contained in
8 the plan submitted by the statewide broadband office to the national
9 telecommunications and information administration.

10 (2) In addition to scoring and weighting criteria established
11 pursuant to the federal broadband equity, access, and deployment
12 program, the state broadband office must establish additional
13 secondary selection criteria, including, but not limited to, criteria
14 that give weight to projects that:

15 (a) Provide open-access wholesale last-mile broadband service for
16 the useful life of the subsidized networks on fair, equal, and
17 neutral terms to all potential retail providers; and

18 (b) Demonstrate support from the local government or any tribal
19 government with oversight over the location or locations to be
20 served.

21 (3) \$300,000 of the federal broadband account—federal
22 appropriation provided in this section is for a staff position
23 dedicated to advising the statewide broadband office on the
24 availability and feasibility of deploying new and emerging
25 technologies in broadband internet service.

26 Appropriation:

27	Federal Broadband Account—Federal.	\$1,227,742,000
28	Federal Broadband Account—State.	\$280,000,000
29	Subtotal Appropriation.	\$1,507,742,000
30	Prior Biennia (Expenditures).	\$0
31	Future Biennia (Projected Costs).	\$0
32	TOTAL.	\$1,507,742,000

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3. FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

34 Broadband Infrastructure Federal Match Transfer (40000825)

35 The appropriation in this section is subject to the following
36 conditions and limitations: The state building construction account—
37 state appropriation in this section for fiscal year 2025 is provided

solely for the statewide broadband office to administer the broadband equity, access, and deployment state grants program in section 60102 of P.L. 117-58 (infrastructure investment and jobs act). The appropriation must be transferred into the federal broadband account established in RCW 43.330.400. Expenditure of the amount in this section is contingent on the receipt of this federal grant funding.

Appropriation:

State Building Construction Account—State.	\$280,000,000
Prior Biennia (Expenditures).	\$0
Future Biennia (Projected Costs).	\$0
TOTAL.	\$280,000,000

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (40000290)

The reappropriations in this section are subject to the following conditions and limitations: The reappropriations in this section are subject to the provisions of section 2 of this act.

Reappropriation:

Federal Broadband Account—Federal.	\$1,227,742,000
Federal Broadband Account—State.	\$280,000,000
Subtotal Reappropriation.	\$1,507,742,000
Prior Biennia (Expenditures).	\$0
Future Biennia (Projected Costs).	\$0
TOTAL.	\$1,507,742,000

Sec. 5. RCW 43.330.400 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 603 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The federal broadband ((mapping)) account is ((established)) created in ((the custody of)) the state ((treasurer. The department shall deposit into the account such)) treasury. All receipts from funds received from legislative appropriation or transfer, federal funding, and ((donated funds from private and public sources)) moneys directed to the account from any other lawful source, must be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for ((the purposes of RCW 43.330.403 through 43.330.409. Only the director of the department or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to the

1 ~~allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is~~
2 ~~not required for expenditures)) broadband activities authorized under~~
3 ~~federal law and for nonfederal match requirements.~~

4 (2) ~~((The department is the single eligible entity in the state~~
5 ~~for purposes of the federal broadband mapping activities.~~

6 ~~(3))~~ Federal funding received by the department for broadband
7 ~~((mapping))~~ activities must be used in accordance with any federal
8 requirements and, subject to those requirements, may be distributed
9 by the department on a competitive basis to other entities in the
10 state.

11 ~~((4) The department shall consult with the office of financial~~
12 ~~management and the utilities and transportation commission in~~
13 ~~coordinating broadband mapping activities. In carrying out any~~
14 ~~broadband mapping activities, the provisions of P.L. 110-385, Title~~
15 ~~I, regarding trade secrets, commercial or financial information, and~~
16 ~~privileged or confidential information submitted by the federal~~
17 ~~communications commission or a broadband provider are deemed to~~
18 ~~encompass the consulted agencies.))~~

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The following acts or parts of acts are
20 each repealed:

- 21 (1) 2023 c 474 s 6082 (uncodified);
- 22 (2) 2023 c 474 s 7017 (uncodified); and
- 23 (3) 2024 c 375 s 1004 (uncodified).

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Except for section 4 of this act, this act
25 is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace,
26 health, or safety, or support of the state government and its
27 existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Section 4 of this act is necessary for the
29 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or
30 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,
31 and takes effect July 1, 2025.

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