

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 146

To establish a grant program to support broadband-based economic development efforts.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2005

Mr. MCHUGH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a grant program to support broadband-based economic development efforts.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. GRANTS FOR BROADBAND-BASED ECONOMIC**
4 **DEVELOPMENT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Public Works and
6 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et
7 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 219. GRANTS FOR BROADBAND-BASED ECONOMIC DE-**
2 **VELOPMENT.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following
4 definitions apply:

5 “(1) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—The term ‘eligible
6 applicant’ means—

7 “(A) a State or local government;

8 “(B) an institution of higher education; or

9 “(C) a nonprofit economic development or-
10 ganization.

11 “(2) REGION.—The term ‘region’ means an
12 area—

13 “(A) that is determined by the Secretary
14 to qualify for grants under this section; and

15 “(B) that, on the date of submission of an
16 application for a grant under this section, meets
17 1 or more of the criteria described in section
18 301(a).

19 “(b) GRANTS.—On the application of an eligible ap-
20 plicant, the Secretary may make grants—

21 “(1) to assess the telecommunications infra-
22 structure of a region;

23 “(2) to assess the telecommunications demand
24 in a region; and

1 “(3) to organize programs to boost the supply
2 of high-speed telecommunications to a region, in-
3 cluding demand aggregation programs.

4 “(c) CRITERIA FOR GRANT.—The Secretary may
5 make a grant under this section only if the Secretary de-
6 termines that the project proposed to be carried out using
7 funds from the grant will advance high-speed tele-
8 communications in an area with a population of not more
9 than 1,000,000 individuals, as determined by the Office
10 of Management and Budget.

11 “(d) MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE FOR EACH REGION.—
12 Not more than \$1,000,000 of the amounts made available
13 to carry out this section may be expended in any 1 region.

14 “(e) COST SHARING.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the
16 cost of a project carried out using funds made avail-
17 able under this section shall be 50 percent.

18 “(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—Not more than
19 50 percent of the non-Federal share of the cost of
20 a project carried out using funds made available
21 under this section may be provided through in-kind
22 contributions.

23 “(3) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN SECTION.—
24 Section 204 shall not apply to this section.

1 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$50,000,000. Such funds shall remain available until ex-
4 pended.”.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
6 tents contained in section 1(b) of the Public Works and
7 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121
8 note) is amended by inserting after the item relating to
9 section 218 the following:

“Sec. 219. Grants for broadband-based economic development.”.

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