

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25037

This bill makes a slight modification to the Broadband Infrastructure Investment Grant Fund (BIIG Fund) which was created in 2016. The changes are required for the State to use matching federal funds per discussions with the federal government. The fund provides opportunities for school districts to invest in broadband infrastructure. Many of the State's school districts struggle with the cost of building a network infrastructure necessary to accommodate modern classrooms.

The BIIG Fund helps qualifying districts leverage existing funding to obtain the connectivity they need. Qualifying districts can apply for BIIG Fund dollars up to 10 percent of a district's project costs. The district can then use the State funding commitment to receive additional e-rate funding and e-rate discounts to lower the actual project costs. The district is able to build broadband infrastructure for a fraction of the original cost.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact with this legislation. The legislature placed \$2,700,000 in this fund during the 2016 fiscal year. The legislature may from time to time place such funds as it deems appropriate into this fund to assist with the required matching funds. The State Department of Education will fulfill its management responsibilities from existing resources available in the current and future broadband allocations.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).