

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 299

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1
2 RELATING TO THE IDAHO BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD; AMENDING SECTION 67-4761,
3 IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE IDAHO
4 BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD AND TO PROVIDE THAT GRANT AWARD GRADING AND
5 SCORING SHALL BE CONDUCTED BY AN INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY AT THE DISCRE-
6 TION OF THE ADVISORY BOARD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN
7 EFFECTIVE DATE.

8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

9 SECTION 1. That Section 67-4761, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
10 amended to read as follows:

11 67-4761. IDAHO BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD. (1) There is hereby created
12 within the department of commerce the Idaho broadband advisory board. The
13 advisory board shall consist of three (3) members of the house of represen-
14 tatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, three (3)
15 members of the senate appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate,
16 one (1) nonvoting member with experience and knowledge of the broadband in-
17 dustry appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, one (1) non-
18 voting member with experience and knowledge of the broadband industry ap-
19 pointed by the president pro tempore of the senate, and three (3) members of
20 the public appointed by the governor.

21 (2) The advisory board shall be responsible for creating a statewide
22 broadband plan that will determine the manner of structuring, prioritizing,
23 and dispersing grants from the Idaho broadband fund to areas of the state
24 that are most in need and shall have the authority to determine which broad-
25 band projects are undertaken pursuant to this section. At the discretion of
26 the advisory board, grant award grading and scoring shall be conducted by an
27 independent third party, and the independent third party shall provide rec-
28 ommendations to the advisory board. In the preparation, adoption, and im-
29 plementation of the statewide broadband plan, the advisory board shall so-
30 licit the participation and assistance of state agencies with pertinent ex-
31 pertise. All agencies of the state of Idaho shall cooperate with the advi-
32 sory board by providing requested research, information, and studies per-
33 taining in any manner to the statewide broadband plan.

34 (3) Once the statewide broadband plan has been adopted by a majority
35 vote of the broadband advisory board, copies of the plan shall be filed in the
36 office of the governor, posted on the website of the advisory board or the de-
37 partment of commerce, and published and distributed in any other manner de-
38 termined appropriate by the advisory board.

39 (4) Following adoption of the statewide broadband plan, the board shall
40 administer the implementation of the plan and shall maintain and revise the
41 plan as necessary.

1 (5) Any state agency may petition the board to revise the statewide
2 broadband plan. The board shall review any petition filed pursuant to this
3 section within three (3) months after it is filed and shall either take ac-
4 tion to revise the broadband plan or set forth its reasons for denying the
5 request in writing.

6 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
7 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
8 July 1, 2025.