

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 848

By: Paxton

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Broadband Expansion Act; amending Section 5, Chapter 229, O.S.L. 2022 (74 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 9204), which relates to the Oklahoma Broadband Office; modifying requirements for assistance provided to the Office by certain agency; requiring fulfillment of certain assistance request by certain date; providing for extension; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 5, Chapter 229, O.S.L. 2022 (74 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 9204), is amended to read as follows:

Section 9204. A. There is hereby created until June 30, 2028, the Oklahoma Broadband Office, to serve as the state's sole administrator of the functions, powers, and duties assigned to the Office in this act or under law. Effective June 30, 2028, the Office shall terminate and all personnel positions shall be abolished. The Office shall utilize the year prior to the termination date for the purpose of ceasing the Office's affairs.

1 B. The Office shall receive administrative assistance from the
2 Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES), which shall
3 provide, through existing OMES resources, administrative assistance
4 upon request in writing or electronic correspondence from the
5 Office's Executive Director, ~~within a reasonable time to allow the~~
6 ~~performance of the Office's duties or.~~ OMES shall provide
7 assistance in the manner requested within thirty (30) days of
8 determination by the Agency that the request is able to be
9 fulfilled. If for any reason the request cannot be fulfilled within
10 thirty (30) days, the Office and OMES shall enter into a written
11 agreement expressing an agreed upon timeline for fulfilling the
12 needs of the Office. In the event that the request cannot be
13 fulfilled, OMES shall respond in writing within ten (10) days of the
14 request providing reasons why the request cannot be fulfilled the
15 reasoning for denial. If the request cannot be fulfilled utilizing
16 existing resources, OMES may charge the Office for the actual cost
17 to fulfill the request.

18 C. The Office shall be governed by the Broadband Governing
19 Board, created pursuant to Section 3 of this act.

20 D. The Office shall be advised by the Broadband Expansion
21 Council, created pursuant to Section 4 of this act.

22 E. The Office shall have an Executive Director who shall
23 oversee the operations of the Office including, but not limited to:
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1 1. Overseeing the creation, maintenance, and completion of the
2 Statewide Broadband Plan;

3 2. Communicating the state's progress in achieving the goals
4 and implementation of the Statewide Broadband Plan;

5 3. The creation, housing, and updating of a statewide broadband
6 services map;

7 4. Overseeing of grant applications and awards for connectivity
8 and affordability projects;

9 5. Making recommendations to the Board regarding procedural and
10 administrative rules for the Office; and

11 6. Employment and management of Office staff subject to the
12 limitations and requirements of this act and subject to the
13 limitations and requirements of the Broadband Governing Board.

14 F. The Executive Director shall regularly report to the Council
15 and the Board and shall submit an annual report to the Office of the
16 Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Office of
17 the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate.

18 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
19 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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