

**WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**  
**2021 THIRD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION**

**ORIGINATING**  
**House Bill 339**

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[Originating in the Committee on Finance; reported on  
October 15, 2021]



1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
2 designated §31G-1A-7, relating to creating the Broadband Development Fund; providing  
3 for the administration of the fund, sources of funding for the fund, and the purposes for  
4 expenditures from the fund; authorizing expenditures from the fund from collections and  
5 pursuant to legislative appropriations; and requiring certification of projects to Joint  
6 Committee on Government and Finance prior to expenditures.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 1A. OFFICE OF BROADBAND.**

**§31G-1A-7. Broadband Development Fund.**

1 (a) The Broadband Development Fund is hereby created in the State Treasury. The fund  
2 shall be administered by the Secretary of the Department of Economic Development and shall  
3 consist of all moneys made available for the purposes of this article from any source, including,  
4 but not limited to, all gifts, grants, bequests or transfers from any source, any moneys that may  
5 be appropriated to the fund by the Legislature, and all interest or other return earned from  
6 investment of the fund. Expenditures from the fund shall be for the purposes set forth in  
7 subsection (b) of this section and are not authorized from collections but are to be made only in  
8 accordance with appropriation by the Legislature and in accordance with the provisions of §12-3-  
9 1, et seq. of this code and upon the fulfillment of the provisions set forth in §11B-2-1, et seq. of  
10 this code: *Provided*, That for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, expenditures are authorized  
11 from collections rather than pursuant to an explicit appropriation by the Legislature. Any balance,  
12 including accrued interest and other returns, remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year  
13 shall not revert to the General Revenue Fund but shall remain in the fund and be expended as  
14 provided by this section.

15 (b) Monies of the Broadband Development Fund may only be expended for the following  
16 purposes:

17 (1) Expenses for the administration of the Office of Broadband;

18           (2) Line extension advancement and development projects, including expansion of  
19 existing fiber and cable networks;

20           (3) Major broadband project strategies, including new networks or major expansions of  
21 existing networks;

22           (4) GigReady incentive projects, including a state incentive for ISP and local governments  
23 and organizations to pool some of their federal American Rescue Plan Act allocations or other  
24 local funding;

25           And

26           (5) Wireless Internet Networks, including expansions or upgrades of existing fixed wireless  
27 networks.

28           (c) Except funds expended for the administration of the Office of Broadband, monies of  
29 the Broadband Development Fund may only be expended for projects authorized by subsection

30 (b) of this section that have been certified to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance by  
31 the Director of the Office of Broadband or the Secretary of the Department of Economic  
32 Development prior to making the expenditures.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create a special revenue fund from which moneys may be expended for broadband development.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.