

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

## 2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

### House Bill 5634

FISCAL  
NOTE

By Delegate Toney

[Introduced February 17, 2026; referred to the  
Committee on Energy and Public Works]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
 2 designated as §31G-1-10, relating to establishing the Last-Mile Broadband for Coalfield  
 3 Counties Act to provide for coalfield broadband expansion.

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

**ARTICLE 1. BROADBAND ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL.**

**§31G-1-10. Last-Mile Broadband for Coalfield Counties Act; coalfield broadband expansion.**

1 (a) This bill establishes the Last-Mile Broadband for Coalfield Counties Act to provide for  
 2 coalfield broadband expansion.

3 (b) Broadband eligibility shall be based on verified service availability and speed testing.

4 (c) Priority recipients include schools, bus garages, emergency services, and unserved  
 5 communities.

6 (d) Preference shall be given to regional broadband projects involving counties,  
 7 municipalities, and public agencies.

8 (e) For purposes of this section, the term "coalfield county" means any county in the state  
 9 of West Virginia that has:

10 (1) Historically had coal mining within its boundaries;

11 (2) Economically benefitted, or presently benefits, from the coal mining industry within its  
 12 boundaries;

13 (3) Historically had economic activity ancillary, or related, to the coal mining industry within  
 14 its boundaries; or

15 (4) Otherwise been, or will be, significantly affected by the coal mining industry.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish the Last-Mile Broadband for Coalfield Counties Act to provide for coalfield broadband expansion.

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