AMENDMENT NO._________     Calendar No.______

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.


S. 1046

To establish the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on ___________ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended to be proposed by Mr. GARDNER

Viz:

1. Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

3. SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4. This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Critical Connectivity Expands Service, Small Business Resources, Opportunities, Access, and Data Based on Assessed Need and Demand Act” or the “ACCESS BROADBAND Act”.

8. SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

9. In this Act:

10. (1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.
(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(3) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(4) FEDERAL BROADBAND SUPPORT PROGRAM.—The term “Federal broadband support program” does not include any Universal Service Fund program and means any of the following programs (or any other similar Federal program) to the extent the program offers broadband internet service or programs for promoting broadband access and adoption for various demographic communities through various media for residential, commercial, or community providers, or academic establishments:

(A) The Telecommunications and Technology Program of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

(B) The following programs of the Rural Utilities Service of the Department of Agriculture:

(i) The Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan and Loan Guarantee Program established under the Rural Elec-
trification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.).

(ii) Any program to provide grants, loans, or loan guarantees under sections 601 through 603 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.).


(v) The distance learning and telemedicine grant program established under chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XXII of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq.).

(vi) The broadband loan and grant pilot program known as the “Rural eConnectivity Pilot Program” or the “Re-Connect Program” authorized under section 779 of division A of the Consolidated

(C) The following other programs of the Department of Agriculture:

(i) Community facility direct and guaranteed loans under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

(ii) Community facility grants under paragraph (19), (20), or (21) of section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

(iii) The Rural Community Development Initiative authorized under the heading “RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT” under the heading “RURAL HOUSING SERVICE” under title III of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116–6; 133 Stat. 13).

(D) The following programs of the Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce:
(i) The Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs.

(ii) The Planning and Local Technical Assistance Programs.

(E) The following programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development:

(i) The Community Development Block Grant Program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

(ii) The loan guarantee program under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308) (commonly known as the "Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program").

(iii) Assistance from the Public Housing Capital Fund established under section 9(d) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d)).

(iv) Assistance from the Public Housing Operating Fund established under section 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(e)).

(v) The Multifamily Housing Programs.
(vi) The Indian Community Development Block Grant Program.

(yii) The Indian Housing Block Grant Program under section 101 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4111).

(viii) Loan guarantees under title VI of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4191 et seq.) (commonly known as the "Title VI Loan Guarantee Program").

(ix) The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative.

(x) The HOME Investment Partnerships Program authorized under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.).


(xii) The Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Program authorized
under the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act
(42 U.S.C. 12901 et seq.).
(F) The American Job Centers of the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor.
(G) The Library Services and Technology Grant Programs of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

(5) OFFICE.—The term "Office" means the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth established under section 3,

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF INTERNET CONNECTIVITY AND GROWTH.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall establish the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

SEC. 4. DUTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall—

(1) connect with communities that need access to high-speed internet and improved digital inclusion efforts through various forms of outreach and communication techniques;
(2) hold regional workshops across the United States to share best practices and effective strategies for promoting broadband access and adoption;

(3) develop targeted broadband training and presentations for various demographic communities through various media;

(4) develop and distribute publications (including toolkits, primers, manuals, and white papers) providing guidance, strategies, and insights to communities as the communities develop strategies to expand broadband access and adoption; and

(5) as applicable in carrying out paragraphs (1) through (4), cooperate with State agencies that provide similar broadband investments, outreach, and coordination through Federal programs.

(b) RELATION TO CURRENT BROADBAND ACTIVITIES OF NTIA.—The Assistant Secretary shall assign to the Office all activities performed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration as of the date of enactment of this Act that are similar to the activities required to be conducted by the Office under this Act.

SEC. 5. STREAMLINED APPLICATIONS FOR SUPPORT.

(a) AGENCY CONSULTATION.—The Office shall consult with any agency offering a Federal broadband support program to streamline and standardize the application
process for grants or other financial assistance from the program.

(b) AGENCY STREAMLINING.—Any agency offering a Federal broadband support program shall amend the application for broadband support from that program, to the extent practicable and as necessary, to streamline and standardize applications for Federal broadband support programs across the Federal Government.

(c) SINGLE APPLICATION.—To the greatest extent practicable, the Office shall seek to create 1 application that may be submitted to apply for all, or substantially all, Federal broadband support programs.

(d) WEBSITE REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office shall create a central website through which a potential applicant can learn about and apply for support through any Federal broadband support program.

SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act is intended to alter or amend any provision of section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254).

SEC. 7. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act. This Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.