



AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—116th Cong., 1st Sess.

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 fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

8 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the
11 meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5,
12 United States Code.

1 (2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
2 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
3 Commerce for Communications and Information.

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

6 (4) FEDERAL BROADBAND SUPPORT PRO-
7 GRAM.—The term “Federal broadband support pro-
8 gram” does not include any Universal Service Fund
9 program and means any of the following programs
10 (or any other similar Federal program) to the extent
11 the program offers broadband internet service or
12 programs for promoting broadband access and adop-
13 tion for various demographic communities through
14 various media for residential, commercial, or com-
15 munity providers, or academic establishments:

16 (A) The Telecommunications and Tech-
17 nology Program of the Appalachian Regional
18 Commission.

19 (B) The following programs of the Rural
20 Utilities Service of the Department of Agri-
21 culture:

22 (i) The Telecommunications Infra-
23 structure Loan and Loan Guarantee Pro-
24 gram established under the Rural Elec-

1 trification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et
2 seq.).

3 (ii) Any program to provide grants,
4 loans, or loan guarantees under sections
5 601 through 603 of the Rural Electrifica-
6 tion Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.).

7 (iii) The substantially underserved
8 trust area initiative under section 306F of
9 the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7
10 U.S.C. 936f).

11 (iv) The Community Connect Grant
12 Program established under section 604 of
13 the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7
14 U.S.C. 950bb-3).

15 (v) The distance learning and tele-
16 medicine grant program established under
17 chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XXII of the
18 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and
19 Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa et
20 seq.).

21 (vi) The broadband loan and grant
22 pilot program known as the "Rural
23 eConnectivity Pilot Program" or the "Re-
24 Connect Program" authorized under sec-
25 tion 779 of division A of the Consolidated

1 Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law
2 115–141; 132 Stat. 348).

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

5 (i) Community facility direct and
6 guaranteed loans under section 306(a) of
7 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
8 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

9 (ii) Community facility grants under
10 paragraph (19), (20), or (21) of section
11 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and
12 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
13 1926(a)).

14 (iii) The Rural Community Develop-
15 ment Initiative authorized under the head-
16 ing “RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PRO-
17 GRAM ACCOUNT” under the heading
18 “RURAL HOUSING SERVICE” under title
19 III of division B of the Consolidated Ap-
20 propriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116–6;
21 133 Stat. 13).

22 (D) The following programs of the Eco-
23 nomic Development Administration of the De-
24 partment of Commerce:

1 (j) The Public Works and Economic
2 Adjustment Assistance Programs.

3 (ii) The Planning and Local Technical
4 Assistance Programs.

5 (E) The following programs of the Depart-
6 ment of Housing and Urban Development:

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

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

16 (iii) Assistance from the Public Hous-
17 ing Capital Fund established under section
18 9(d) of the United States Housing Act of
19 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d)).

20 (iv) Assistance from the Public Hous-
21 ing Operating Fund established under sec-
22 tion 9(e) of the United States Housing Act
23 of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(e)).

24 (v) The Multifamily Housing Pro-
25 grams.

1 (vi) The Indian Community Develop-
2 ment Block Grant Program.

3 (vii) The Indian Housing Block Grant
4 Program under section 101 of the Native
5 American Housing Assistance and Self-De-
6 termination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4111).

7 (viii) Loan guarantees under title VI
8 of the Native American Housing Assist-
9 ance and Self-Determination Act of 1996
10 (25 U.S.C. 4191 et seq.) (commonly known
11 as the "Title VI Loan Guarantee Pro-
12 gram").

13 (ix) The Choice Neighborhoods Initia-
14 tive.

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

19 (xi) The Housing Trust Fund estab-
20 lished under section 1338 of the Federal
21 Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and
22 Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4568).

23 (xii) The Housing Opportunities for
24 Persons With AIDS Program authorized

1 under the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act
2 (42 U.S.C. 12901 et seq.).

3 (F) The American Job Centers of the Em-
4 ployment and Training Administration of the
5 Department of Labor.

6 (G) The Library Services and Technology
7 Grant Programs of the Institute of Museum
8 and Library Services.

9 (5) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Of-
10 fice of Internet Connectivity and Growth established
11 under section 3.

12 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF INTERNET**
13 **CONNECTIVITY AND GROWTH.**

14 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
15 of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall establish the Of-
16 fice of Internet Connectivity and Growth within the Na-
17 tional Telecommunications and Information Administra-
18 tion.

19 **SEC. 4. DUTIES.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.— The Office shall—

21 (1) connect with communities that need access
22 to high-speed internet and improved digital inclusion
23 efforts through various forms of outreach and com-
24 munication techniques;

1 (2) hold regional workshops across the United
2 States to share best practices and effective strategies
3 for promoting broadband access and adoption;

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

7 (4) develop and distribute publications (includ-
8 ing toolkits, primers, manuals, and white papers)
9 providing guidance, strategies, and insights to com-
10 munities as the communities develop strategies to
11 expand broadband access and adoption; and

12 (5) as applicable in carrying out paragraphs (1)
13 through (4), cooperate with State agencies that pro-
14 vide similar broadband investments, outreach, and
15 coordination through Federal programs.

16 **(b) RELATION TO CURRENT BROADBAND ACTIVITIES**
17 **OF NTIA.**—The Assistant Secretary shall assign to the
18 Office all activities performed by the National Tele-
19 communications and Information Administration as of the
20 date of enactment of this Act that are similar to the activi-
21 ties required to be conducted by the Office under this Act.

22 **SEC. 5. STREAMLINED APPLICATIONS FOR SUPPORT.**

23 **(a) AGENCY CONSULTATION.**—The Office shall con-
24 sult with any agency offering a Federal broadband support
25 program to streamline and standardize the application

1 process for grants or other financial assistance from the
2 program.

3 (b) AGENCY STREAMLINING.—Any agency offering a
4 Federal broadband support program shall amend the ap-
5 plication for broadband support from that program, to the
6 extent practicable and as necessary, to streamline and
7 standardize applications for Federal broadband support
8 programs across the Federal Government.

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

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

18 **SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

19 Nothing in this Act is intended to alter or amend any
20 provision of section 254 of the Communications Act of
21 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254).

22 **SEC. 7. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

23 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-
24 priated to carry out this Act. This Act shall be carried
25 out using amounts otherwise authorized.