

By: Representatives Bounds, Stamps

To: Public Utilities

HOUSE BILL NO. 1067  
(As Passed the House)

1        AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI BROADBAND ACCESSIBILITY ACT;  
2 TO PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; TO DEFINE THE TERM "BEAM"; TO  
3 CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI BROADBAND ACCESSIBILITY FUND FOR THE  
4 PURPOSE OF THE EXPANSION AND ACCESSIBILITY OF BROADBAND IN  
5 UNSERVED AREAS; TO PROVIDE THAT DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE FUND SHALL  
6 BE MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION UPON  
7 APPROPRIATION OR DESIGNATION BY THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED  
8 PURPOSES.

9        BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

10        SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
11 "Mississippi Broadband Accessibility Act".

12        SECTION 2. The Legislature finds that the availability of  
13 high-speed broadband services, in unserved areas of Mississippi is  
14 important for economic development, education, health care, and  
15 emergency services in Mississippi, and that grants and other  
16 incentives set forth in this act will further those objectives by  
17 encouraging new investment in broadband infrastructure.

18        SECTION 3. For the purposes of this act, the term "BEAM"  
19 means the Office of Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of  
20 Mississippi within the Department of  
21 Finance and Administration, as created in Section 77-19-5.



22           **SECTION 4.** There is created within the State Treasury the  
23 "Mississippi Broadband Accessibility Fund" for the purpose of the  
24 expansion and accessibility of broadband in unserved areas. The  
25 fund shall consist of all monies designated or appropriated by the  
26 State of Mississippi as provided in Section 77-19-7.

27           Disbursements from the fund shall be made by the Department  
28 of Finance and Administration upon appropriation or designation by  
29 the Legislature in accordance with the provisions of this act.  
30 The administration of this program and disbursements for this  
31 program shall comply with the provisions as set forth in Sections  
32 77-19-3, 77-19-7, 77-19-9, 77-19-11, 77-19-13, 77-19-15 and  
33 77-19-17.

34           All unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end  
35 of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund. Monies in the fund  
36 shall be invested by the State Treasurer in the same manner as  
37 monies in the State General Fund and interest earned on the  
38 investment of these monies shall be credited to the fund.

39           **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
40 and after July 1, 2023.

