

**Adopted  
AMENDMENT NO 1 TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED  
TO**

**House Bill No. 1471**

**BY: Senator(s) Carter**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting  
in lieu thereof the following:**

6           **SECTION 1.** Section 77-19-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8           77-19-7. (1) The Office of Broadband Expansion and  
9 Accessibility of Mississippi (BEAM) shall serve as the state  
10 broadband office to review applications and make determinations  
11 and awards for projects to provide broadband access in unserved or  
12 underserved areas using the BEAM Fund created pursuant to this  
13 chapter.

14           (2) It shall be the duty and responsibility of BEAM to:



15           (a) Coordinate all broadband expansion and  
16 accessibility efforts on behalf of the state to ensure an  
17 effective and efficient use of broadband grant funds;

18           (b) Develop the plan and application for federal grant  
19 programs and for sub-grantees to receive funds from said federal  
20 grants;

21           (c) Develop rules and procedures, if necessary and in  
22 accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, to implement a  
23 competitive statewide broadband grant program;

24           (d) Coordinate all information provided by broadband  
25 service providers, including all broadband mapping efforts for the  
26 state. All information provided by a broadband service provider  
27 pursuant to this chapter shall be presumed to be confidential,  
28 proprietary, and subject to exemption from disclosure under state  
29 and federal law and shall not be subject to disclosure except in  
30 the form of a map where information that could be used to  
31 determine provider-specific information about the network of the  
32 broadband service providers is not disclosed. Such  
33 provider-specific information shall not be released to any person  
34 without written permission of the submitting broadband service  
35 provider. In no instance shall a broadband service provider be  
36 required to provide any data beyond that which it is required to  
37 provide to the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to 47  
38 USC Section 641 et seq.; \* \* \*



39           (e) Apply for and receive federal grants or funds,  
40 including, but not limited to, Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund  
41 established by Section 604 of the Social Security Act, as added by  
42 Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and the  
43 Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program established by the  
44 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, and all other  
45 federal broadband grant programs and any state support grant  
46 programs \* \* \*; and

47           (f) Grant final determinations for awards for projects  
48 to provide broadband access in unserved or underserved areas  
49 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section no later than sixty  
50 (60) days after publishing a preliminary determination of an award  
51 on BEAM's website pursuant to this chapter or thirty (30) days  
52 after this law goes into effect, whichever is later, unless BEAM  
53 determines that a proposed project includes an area where  
54 broadband services currently are deployed, or where construction  
55 is scheduled to be completed within one (1) year after the date of  
56 application.

57           (3) To effectuate the purposes of this chapter, any  
58 department, division, board, bureau, committee, institution or  
59 agency of the state, or any political subdivision thereof, shall,  
60 at the request of the Director of BEAM, provide the assistance,  
61 information and data needed to enable BEAM to carry out its  
62 duties.



63 (4) There is created within the State Treasury the  
64 "Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi (BEAM) Fund"  
65 for the purposes of the expansion and accessibility of broadband  
66 in unserved and underserved areas. The fund shall consist of all  
67 monies designated, accepted or appropriated by the State of  
68 Mississippi for broadband deployment; all monies received from the  
69 federal government awarded to or allocated by the state for  
70 broadband deployment; and donations, gifts and monies received  
71 from any other source, including transfers from other funds or  
72 accounts. Disbursements from the fund shall be made by the  
73 Department of Finance and Administration upon appropriation by the  
74 Legislature in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.  
75 All unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of  
76 the fiscal year shall remain in the fund. Monies in the fund  
77 shall be invested by the State Treasurer in the same manner as  
78 monies in the State General Fund and interest earned on the  
79 investment of these monies shall be credited to the fund.

80 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
81 and after its passage.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 77-19-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 ALLOW BEAM TO GRANT FINAL DETERMINATIONS FOR AWARDS FOR PROJECTS  
3 TO PROVIDE BROADBAND ACCESS IN CERTAIN UNSERVED OR UNDERSERVED  
4 AREAS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

