

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 2615  
**Version:** As amended (H2615A2)

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**Subject:** Broadband development

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### Overview

House File 2615 establishes a program to make grants and loan awards to private and public sector entities for the development of broadband infrastructure in unserved areas of the state.

#### Section

**1 [116J.394] Definitions.**

**2 [116J.395] Border-to-border broadband development grant and loan program.**

**Subd. 1. Establishment.** Establishes a broadband grant and loan program under the commissioner of employment and economic development.

**Subd. 2. Eligible expenditures.** Provides that grants and loans may support the development of middle- and last-mile broadband infrastructure supporting broadband speeds of at least 100 megabits per second upload and download.

**Subd. 3. Eligible applicants.** Lists eligible applicants, including businesses, political subdivisions, nonprofits, and coops.

**Subd. 4. Application process.** Directs the commissioner to develop administrative procedures governing the application process and to act as fiscal agent for the program.

**Subd. 5. Application contents.** Specifies application contents, including number of end-users who will acquire broadband access, evidence of community support for the project, sources of supplemental funding, and other information.

**Section**

**Subd. 6. Awarding grants and loans.** Lists factors the commissioner must give priority to in evaluating applications.

**3 [116J.396] Border-to-border broadband fund.**

**Subd. 1. Account established.** Establishes the border-to-border broadband account in the state treasury, and directs the commissioner to credit to the account appropriations and transfers to the account.

**Subd. 2. Expenditures.** Specifies allowable expenditures from the account, including grants and loans awarded by the program, reasonable administrative expenses of the department, and as a supplement to revenues raised by local bond sales for broadband development.

**Subd. 3. Appropriation.** Appropriates money in the account to the commissioner for the purposes of the program.

**4 Appropriation.** Appropriates \$100,000,000 from the general fund to the commissioner of DEED for the purposes of the grant and loan program.