

**Subject** Coworking grants pilot program appropriation

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## Overview

This bill appropriates \$50,000 in fiscal year 2020 from the general fund for grants to support broadband connections for coworking spaces designed to foster startup businesses. These spaces must be located in unserved or underserved areas for broadband, as defined under the border-to-border broadband program. Recipients must obtain a 100 percent nonstate match to grant funds in cash or in-kind, though these matching funds may be used for expenses of the coworking space other than broadband access. Requires recipients, within one year of receiving grants funds, to report to the commissioner on grant outcomes, including the number of startup businesses served and the amount of local funds invested in the coworking space.