



SUMMARY

AB 14 prioritizes the deployment of broadband infrastructure in California's most vulnerable and unserved rural and urban communities by extending the ongoing collection of funds deposited into the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to provide communities with grants necessary to bridge the digital divide. AB 14 is part of the Legislative Broadband package with SB 4.

BACKGROUND

As evidenced by the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, the capacity to rapidly connect all California residents with evolving emergency information is essential to safeguarding public health and safety during these unprecedented times. A Pew Research Study conducted in April 2020 found that roughly half of United States adults (53%) say the internet has been essential for them personally during the pandemic.

Although barriers to broadband connectivity have persisted for decades, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the digital divide that separates Californians without internet connectivity from those who already have and depend on fast and reliable internet access as a normal part of their daily lives. As record unemployment rates persist, internet access is vital for economic recovery and resiliency. This is especially important for our most vulnerable Californians who remain disproportionately disconnected, including those who are low-income, living in rural areas, and Black or Latino.

Further, lack of reliable access to academic resources and distance learning tools diminishes our youngest Californians' opportunity to thrive. This is a preventable barrier for far too many students, as nearly 1 million (15.6%) school-aged children (ages 6-17) have no internet connection at home and over 1.6 million (27.5%) of children do not have broadband access.

THIS BILL

AB 14 recognizes that reliable internet connectivity is a critical necessity now, and that this will remain the case even after the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided. This bill is contingently enacted with SB 4, which equips Internet Service Providers, Local Governments, Electrical Cooperatives, and Tribal Governments with the opportunity to expedite the connection of their communities to reliable broadband access indefinitely. AB 14 ensures grants administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) from the CASF are awarded to applicants who are willing and able to quickly and efficiently

connect households, community anchor institutions, small businesses, and employers.

Specifically, AB 14 in contingent enactment with SB 4:

- Extends existing collection of the CASF surcharge to December 31, 2032.
- Authorizes the CPUC to require each internet service provider to report information regarding each available free, low-cost, income-qualified, or affordable internet service plan advertised by the provider, including the cost of plan, eligibility requirements, data limitations, number of California residents enrolled in the plan, and a description of their outreach efforts to eligible populations.
- Requires CASF Infrastructure Grant applications must provide broadband access at speeds of a *minimum* of 100 megabits downstream and 20 megabits upstream.
- Identifies all households with speeds of 25 mbps downstream and 3 mbps upstream and below as 'unserved'.
 - Maintains prioritization of those 'unserved' households with speeds of 10 mbps downstream and 1 mbps upstream in addition to prioritization of high-poverty unserved households, meaning those within a census tract in which at least 50 percent of residents are designated low-income
- Ensures 'anchor institutions' defined as schools maintaining kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, community colleges, libraries, hospitals, health clinics, public safety entities, government buildings, and community organizations are eligible for CASF grants on a fair cost-sharing basis for interconnection along the path of deployment.
- Authorizes the CPUC to approve an application for funding to deploy or upgrade broadband services upon making a finding that the existing facility-based broadband provider is unwilling or unable to deploy broadband for the project application service area.



Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, 4th Assembly District

AB 14 Bill Proposal – Internet For All Act of 2021

- Requires relevant state and local agencies and national organizations to develop recommendations and a model for streamlined local land use approval and construction permit processes for projects related to broadband infrastructure deployment and connectivity.

AB 14 is a critical step towards expediting the deployment of broadband infrastructure throughout California. This bill along with SB 4 provides a vital pathway to connect California's workforce to gainful employment, harness the life-saving technology of telemedicine, democratize distance learning, enable precision agriculture, and sustain economic transactions in times of emergencies.

SUPPORT

3CORE

Alameda Health Consortium
 American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA)
 American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 2 (AAP-CA2)
 America's Physician Groups
 ARC
 Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
 Association of California Healthcare Districts
 Association of California Healthcare Districts
 Association of California School Administrators
 BKY Consulting
 Broadband Consortium
 Burnish Creative
 Butte County Administration
 CA Forward
 CA Medicaid Health Plan
 California Academy of PAs
 California Alliance of Child and Family Services
 California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT)
 California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS
 California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
 California Children Trust
 California Children's Hospital
 California Chronic Care Coalition
 California Chronic Care Coalition San Diego County
 California Commission on Aging
 California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
 California County Superintendents Educational Services Association
 California Dental Hygienists' Association

California Department of Education
 California Department of Insurance
 California Federation of Teachers
 California Health Collaborative
 California Health Information Association
 California Legislative Women's Caucus
 California Medical Association
 California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
 California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
 California Senior Legislature
 California State Association of Counties
 Central Valley Community Foundation
 City Council Member Zach Hilton of City of Gilroy
 City of Alameda
 City of Arcata
 City of Bishop
 City of Brea
 City of Chico
 City of Colton
 City of Fountain Valley
 City of Goleta
 City of Hidden Hills
 City of Inglewood
 City of Lakeport
 City of Lawndale
 City of Los Angeles
 City of Moorpark
 City of Mountain View
 City of Novato
 City of Oceanside
 City of San Pablo
 City of San Rafael
 City of Thousand Oaks
 City of Torrance
 City of Tustin
 City of Ventura
 City of Vista
 City of Walnut Creek
 City of West Sacramento
 City of Whittier
 Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce
 Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC)
 County Board of Supervisors; Alameda
 County of Contra Costa
 County of El Dorado
 County of Imperial
 County of Mariposa
 County of Monterey
 County of Napa



Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, 4th Assembly District

AB 14 Bill Proposal – Internet For All Act of 2021

County of San Diego
County of San Luis Obispo
County of Santa Clara
County of Tulare
County of Yuba
Digital Equity Coalition
Economic Development Collaborative
Economic Vitality Corp.
Eden Housing
Fresno State Connective Initiative
Generation Up
Greater Oxnard Organizations of Democrats
Inland Empire Community Foundation
Kern Community College District
League of California Cities
Los Angeles Community College District
Monterey County Board of Supervisors
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
North Bay Leadership Council
North State Planning & Development Collective
OCHIN
Parent Institute for Quality Education
Reach Central Coast
Regional Economic Action Coalition (REACH)
Rural Caucus, California Democratic Party
San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center
Sierra Business Council
Siskiyou Works
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Southern California Association of Governments
Stanislaus Community Foundation
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Yuba Community College Districts
Supervisor Cindy Chavez, District 2, County of Santa Clara
Tahoe Prosperity Center
Teach Plus- California
TechEquity Collaborative
Tenet Healthcare Corporation
The Fresno Center
Triple P America (Positive Parent Program)
Unite LA
United Ways of California (UWCA)
Valley Vision
Western Center on Law & Poverty, Inc.
Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance
Yuba Community College District

CONTACT

Brooke Pritchard | Assembly Fellow
(916) 319-2004 (O) Brooke.Pritchard@asm.ca.gov