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State of Misconsin 2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4609/1 MDK:emw

2015 SENATE BILL 674

February 1, 2016 – Introduced by Senator TIFFANY, cosponsored by Representatives QUINN, E. BROOKS, TRANEL, PETRYK, BALLWEG, BERNIER, CZAJA, EDMING, KITCHENS, KRUG, KULP, T. LARSON, MURSAU, MURTHA, NERISON, NOVAK, RIPP, SPIROS, SWEARINGEN, TAUCHEN, VANDERMEER, MILROY and SKOWRONSKI. Referred to Committee on Workforce Development, Public Works, and Military Affairs.

1 AN ACT to amend 20.155(3)(r) and 196.504(2)(a) of the statutes; relating to:

funding for broadband expansion grants and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill allows the Public Service Commission to make a total of \$10,000,000 in broadband expansion grants during fiscal years 2015–16 and 2016–17. Under current law, the PSC makes the grants to eligible applicants for the purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in underserved areas. Current law provides \$6,000,000 in funding for the grants, but prohibits the PSC from making more than \$1,500,000 in grants in a fiscal year. This bill increases the amount of funding to \$10,000,000 and allows the PSC to make the grants in fiscal years 2015–16 and 2016–17. If the PSC makes less than \$10,000,000 in grants in those fiscal years, the amount remaining lapses to the general fund.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 20.155 (3) (r) of the statutes, as created by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55,

4 is amended to read:

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1	20.155 (3) (r) Broadband expansion grants. From the universal service fund,
2	as a continuing appropriation <u>biennially</u> , the amounts in the schedule for broadband
3	expansion grants under s. 196.504. All moneys transferred under 2015 Wisconsin
4	Act 55, section 9236 (1v) shall be credited to this appropriation account.
5	SECTION 2. 196.504 (2) (a) of the statutes, as affected by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55,
6	is amended to read:
7	196.504 (2) (a) To make broadband expansion grants to eligible applicants for
8	the purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in underserved areas
9	designated under par. (d). Grants awarded under this section shall be paid from the
10	appropriation under s. 20.155 (3) (r). In each fiscal year, the total amount of the
11	grants may not exceed \$1,500,000.
12	SECTION 3. Fiscal changes.
13	(1) BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANTS. In the schedule under section 20.005 (3) of
14	the statutes for the appropriation to the public service commission under section
15	$20.155\ (3)\ (r)$ of the statutes, as affected by the acts of 2015, the dollar amount for
16	fiscal year 2015–16 is increased by \$3,500,000 and the dollar amount for fiscal year
17	2016–17 is increased by \$3,500,000 for the purpose for which the appropriation is
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	made.
19	made. (2) GENERAL FUND TRANSFER. There is transferred from the general fund to the
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