

Date of Hearing: April 27, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE

Sharon Quirk-Silva, Chair

AB 2752 (Wood) – As Introduced February 18, 2022

SUBJECT: Broadband infrastructure: mapping

SUMMARY: This bill would require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to also maintain an interactive map showing all developed last-mile broadband service connections from the statewide open-access middle-mile broadband project.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires the CPUC, in collaboration with relevant state agencies, to maintain and update a publicly available interactive map showing the accessibility of broadband service in the state. [Public Utilities Code § 281.6(a)]
- 2) Authorizes the CPUC to collect from providers of broadband service, information necessary to establish and update the state interactive broadband map. [Public Utilities Code § 281.6(b)]
- 3) Directs the California Department of Technology’s (CDT) Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy (OBDL) to oversee the development and construction of a statewide open-access middle-mile broadband network. This project is known as the Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative (MMBI). (Government Code § 11549.52)
- 4) Directs the CPUC, in collaboration with the MMBI third-party administrator, to provide to CDT the locations for the middle-mile broadband network in a commission staff report, and to update the locations from time to time, as the CPUC deems appropriate. (Government Code § 11549.54)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author: “The state is investing in infrastructure that will bring broadband closer to every Californian, but will still ultimately rely on internet service providers, cooperatives, local governments, and joint power authorities to deploy the last-mile connections. Put simply, this additional mapping information would quantify how the public investment in infrastructure (open-access middle-mile) delivers broadband to the home of Californians (last-mile connections). This bill would track how \$6 billion dollars in infrastructure spending translates to improved broadband access at a household level. The updated maps would provide transparency so that last-mile connections, drawn from a public resource, are delivered with efficiency and equity.”
- 2) *The Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative.* In July 2021, the Legislature passed and Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 156 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 112, Statutes of 2021) to create an open-access middle-mile network to support the expansion of high-speed broadband service to Californians. Middle-mile

broadband networks consist of high-capacity fiber lines that carry large amounts of data at high speeds over long distances between local networks and global internet networks. Middle-mile infrastructure is a necessary component to enable the last-mile internet connectivity for homes, businesses and community institutions. A last-mile connection is the final leg of a network that provides service to the home, business or community institution. As such, the MMBI will not directly connect to any household or business in the state, rather internet service providers (ISPs) will connect into the state middle-mile network to provide service directly to homes and businesses. By requiring the CPUC to map last-mile connections enabled by the state middle-mile network, the public and policymakers will have a better understanding of the impact of the MMBI.

- 3) *Alignment with existing CPUC mapping efforts.* The CPUC collects data once a year to provide California residents a means to look up information about the broadband services available to them via the California Interactive Broadband Map. The data also provides a first look at area eligibility for California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) applicants. Equally important, the data inform public policies intended to make sure broadband is available throughout California, and to promote digital literacy and broadband usage. The requirements of this bill would complement existing broadband mapping efforts of the CPUC, including the CPUC's existing mapping work for the MMBI.
- 4) *Similar/related legislation.*
 - a. AB 41 (Wood, Chapter 659, Statutes of 2021) requires the CPUC to maintain and update a statewide, publicly accessible, and interactive map showing the accessibility of broadband service in the state, including, but not limited to, information identifying the percentage of each census block that has broadband service meeting federal and state standards.
 - b. AB 2749 (Quirk-Silva, 2022) proposes to streamline the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) application review process, to expedite the deployment of last-mile broadband infrastructure and leverage federal funds by their expiration. This bill is pending in this committee.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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