



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
**Joint State Government Commission**  
Room 108 Finance Building, 613 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-4397

Released: July 31, 2023

---

***Short summary in response to Senate Resolution 47 of 2019  
Delivery of High-Speed Broadband Services in Unserved  
and Underserved Areas of the Commonwealth  
Fourth Annual Report***

---

The fourth annual report of the Joint State Government Commission's Advisory Committee on the Delivery of High-Speed Broadband Services in Unserved and Underserved Areas of the Commonwealth was released today. The Advisory Committee expires in 2024, and its final report will be issued during Summer 2024.

The report contains two new recommendations, both focused on sustaining efforts to expand broadband throughout Pennsylvania. The first encourages either the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority or any successor entity to maintain and update broadband service maps. Technological developments and growth in consumer demand will create fluidity in the services that are available and residents' needs to access those services. Service maps will be necessary parts of the infrastructure.

The second recommendation is that telehealth/telemedicine remain available to patients where services are appropriate and that insurer provide coverage of such services.

The role of municipalities as internet service providers has been debated by the Advisory Committee, and there are strong opinions on the advantages and disadvantages of municipalities filling this role. This report does not make a recommendation but seeks to provide complete information to the General Assembly on this topic so that its members are fully informed about potential ramifications if legislative action is contemplated.

Additionally, the report provides an update on the current progress of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's rollout of federal funding for broadband development and expansion, as well as other federal programs financially impacting broadband.

Updates are included regarding recent developments in broadband usage in the fields of education, healthcare, agriculture, and community and economic development. Efforts to lessen barriers to deployment, access and affordability are also reviewed.

Finally, information regarding recent regional and local government efforts to improve broadband service in their communities are presented, along with innovation ideas from other states are also noted.

**Find us at**

**Website:** <http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us>

**Publications:** <http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/publications.cfm>

**Podcasts:** <http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/podcasts.cfm>,  
<https://jsgc.buzzsprout.com/>

or search "Joint State Government Commission Podcast" on your favorite podcast app.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Joint-State-Government-Commission-875463459201928>

**Twitter:** @JointStateGovt