



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Joint State Government Commission
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*Short summary in response to Senate Resolution 47 of 2019
Delivery of High-Speed Broadband Services in Unserved
and Underserved Areas of the Commonwealth
Third Annual Report*

Senate Resolution 47, Printer's No. 951, adopted on June 26, 2019, created a legislative task force on high-speed broadband services, and directed the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study on the delivery of high-speed broadband services in unserved and underserved areas of the Commonwealth. The Commission was further directed to establish an advisory committee to assist in its study. The advisory committee included representatives from Commonwealth agencies with an interest in broadband delivery, as well as Internet service providers, and related cable, wireless, and other technology industries and associations.

This is the third of five reports the Commission. Much has changed since the advisory committee issued its first report. The committee's recommendation that a single statewide authority to encourage and support broadband expansion and deployment was realized in Act 96 of December 2021. The authority was created specifically to prepare for receipt of federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding for broadband development (enacted November 2021). Recommendations in this report include suggestions to supplement and strengthen the new Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority and suggest an additional federal funding source for broadband in schools.

Many of the recommendations made in the first two advisory committee reports have been addressed by the requirements of the IIJA and they are also identified and reviewed in this report. An analysis of the federal IIJA requirements for receipt of broadband funding is also examined.

The remainder of the report will include updated information on the topics addressed in the previous report, including the role of broadband in the fields of education, healthcare, agriculture, tourism, and community and economic development, barriers to development, funding resources, recent developments in Pennsylvania state and local initiatives, recent activities and legislative enactments in other states, and efforts to identify unserved and underserved communities in Pennsylvania.

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