

House Bill No. 1156

AN ACT concerning

~~Cooperatives — Rural Broadband Telecommunication Services —~~
Organization
Rural Broadband Communication Services

FOR the purpose of establishing the ~~Rural Broadband Coordination Office in the Department of Business and Economic Development for certain purposes; requiring the Office to coordinate with certain regional councils and other public and private entities for the establishment of rural broadband telecommunication services in certain areas; providing for the appointment of an Executive Director of the Office Maryland Rural Broadband Coordination Board; specifying the Board's powers and duties; specifying the membership of the Board; requiring the Board and affected units of State government to cooperate in a certain manner; requiring the Rural Maryland Council to provide certain staff support and to provide a certain report; establishing a Rural Broadband Assistance Fund as a special fund in the Office Department of Business and Economic Development for certain purposes; providing for the purposes of the Fund; authorizing certain nonprofit cooperatives to organize under the laws of the State; providing for the dissolution in a certain manner of a cooperative that has not begun to do business requiring the Department to administer the Fund; requiring the Department to make disbursement from the Fund within a certain period of time under certain circumstances; transferring certain funds from the Transportation Authority Fund to the Rural Broadband Assistance Fund for certain purposes and under certain circumstances; stating the intent of the General Assembly; providing for the construction of this Act; and generally relating to economic development, rural broadband telecommunication services, and cooperatives providing that the amount of funds transferred from the Transportation Authority Fund may be reduced by a certain amount under certain circumstances; providing that the State Highway Administration shall allow the use of any right-of-way for the installation of certain infrastructure provided by certain telecommunications services providers without imposition of a certain charge; providing that the cost of any relocation of broadband communication infrastructure due to certain road improvements shall be the responsibility of certain persons; providing for the construction of certain provisions of this Act; defining certain terms; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to rural broadband communication services.~~

BY adding to

Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative DepartmentsSection 21-101 through 21-103 to be under the new title "Title 21, Rural Broadband Coordination"Annotated Code of Maryland(2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)