AM868 LB412 MAL - 03/15/2023

## AMENDMENTS TO LB412

Introduced by Transportation and Telecommunications.

- 1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
- 2 sections:
- 3 Section 1. Section 76-2301, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 4 2022, is amended to read:
- 5 76-2301 Sections 76-2301 to 76-2332 and sections 3, 5, and 7 of this
- 6 <u>act</u>shall be known and may be cited as the One-Call Notification System
- 7 Act.
- 8 Sec. 2. Section 76-2303, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 9 2022, is amended to read:
- 10 76-2303 For purposes of the One-Call Notification System Act, the
- definitions found in sections 76-2303.01 to 76-2317 and section 3 of this
- 12 act shall be used.
- 13 Sec. 3. <u>Committee means the Underground Excavation Safety</u>
- 14 <u>Committee.</u>
- 15 Sec. 4. Section 76-2323, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 16 2022, is amended to read:
- 17 76-2323 (1) Upon receipt of the information contained in the notice
- 18 pursuant to section 76-2321, an operator shall advise the excavator of
- 19 the approximate location of underground facilities in the area of the
- 20 proposed excavation by marking or identifying the location of the
- 21 underground facilities with stakes, flags, paint, or any other clearly
- 22 identifiable marking or reference point and shall indicate if the
- 23 underground facilities are subject to section 76-2331. The location of
- the underground facility given by the operator shall be within a strip of
- 25 land eighteen inches on either side of the marking or identification plus
- 26 one-half of the width of the underground facility. If in the opinion of
- 27 the operator the precise location of a facility cannot be determined and

AM868 LB412 MAL - 03/15/2023

1 marked as required, the operator shall provide all pertinent information

- 2 and field locating assistance to the excavator at a mutually agreed to
- 3 time. The location shall be marked or identified using color standards
- 4 prescribed by the center. The operator shall respond no later than two
- 5 business days after receipt of the information in the notice or at a time
- 6 mutually agreed to by the parties.
- 7 (2) The marking or identification shall be done in a manner that
- 8 will last for a minimum of five business days on any nonpermanent surface
- 9 and a minimum of ten business days on any permanent surface. If the
- 10 excavation will continue for longer than five business days, the operator
- 11 shall remark or reidentify the location of the underground facility upon
- 12 the request of the excavator. The request for remarking or
- 13 reidentification shall be made through the center.
- 14 (3)(a) Beginning September 1, 2024, it shall be a violation of the
- 15 One-Call Notification System Act for an excavator to (i) serve notice of
- 16 intent to excavate upon the center for an area in which the excavation
- 17 <u>cannot be reasonably commenced within seventeen calendar days after the</u>
- 18 excavation start date indicated pursuant to section 76-2321 or (ii)
- 19 request remarking or reidentification for any area in which the
- 20 <u>excavation cannot be reasonably commenced or continued within fourteen</u>
- 21 <u>calendar days after the date remarking or reidentification is completed.</u>
- 22 (b) After receiving notice of any alleged violation of this
- 23 <u>subsection pursuant to subsection (2) of section 76-2325, the excavator</u>
- 24 shall in its answer describe the circumstances which prevented the
- 25 commencement or continuation of excavation within the timeframes set
- 26 <u>forth in this subsection.</u>
- (4) (3) An operator who determines that such operator does not have
- 28 any underground facility located in the area of the proposed excavation
- 29 shall notify the center of the determination prior to the date of
- 30 commencement of the excavation, or prior to two full business days after
- 31 transmittal of the ticket, whichever occurs sooner. All ticket responses

AM868 LB412 MAL - 03/15/2023

1 made under this subsection shall be transmitted to the operator and

- 2 excavator by the center.
- 3 Sec. 5. (1) Beginning September 1, 2024, the Underground Excavation
- 4 Safety Committee is created. The committee shall consist of the following
- 5 members: (a) The State Fire Marshal or the State Fire Marshal's designee,
- 6 (b) three representatives of operators, (c) three representatives of
- 7 excavators, and (d) one alternate representative of operators and one
- 8 <u>alternate representative of excavators</u>. An alternate representative
- 9 <u>described in subdivision (d) of this subsection shall only participate in</u>
- 10 a committee meeting if a corresponding representative described in
- 11 <u>subdivision</u> (b) or (c) of this <u>subsection</u> has <u>declared</u> a <u>conflict</u> of
- 12 interest and recused himself or herself from participation in a matter
- 13 before the committee or is otherwise unavailable for a committee meeting.
- 14 <u>In such instance, the chairperson shall notify the alternate</u>
- 15 <u>representative to serve in the place of the recused or absent</u>
- 16 representative for any meeting related to such particular conflict or for
- 17 <u>the duration of such absence.</u>
- 18 (2) The representative members shall be appointed by the Governor.
- 19 The Governor shall appoint one of the three initial representatives of
- 20 operators described in subdivision (1)(b) of this section, one of the
- 21 three initial representatives of excavators described in subdivision (1)
- 22 (c) of this section, and both alternate representatives described in
- 23 <u>subdivision (1)(d) of this section for two-year terms. The other initial</u>
- 24 representatives shall be appointed for four-year terms. All succeeding
- 25 terms shall be for four years. A representative member may be reappointed
- 26 at the end of such member's term. If there is a vacancy on the committee,
- 27 the Governor shall appoint a member to serve the remainder of the
- 28 <u>unexpired term of the vacating member. All representative members shall</u>
- 29 <u>be subject to approval by the Legislature.</u>
- 30 (3) The committee shall select from among its members a chairperson.
- 31 The committee shall not select an alternate representative to serve as

- 1 <u>chairperson. The committee shall govern its procedures pursuant to rules</u>
- 2 and regulations adopted and promulgated by the State Fire Marshal. No
- 3 representative member shall receive any compensation for services
- 4 rendered as a member of the committee but may be reimbursed for expenses
- 5 <u>as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.</u>
- 6 (4) The committee shall meet not less than monthly and also at such
- 7 other times and at such places as may be established by the chairperson.
- 8 The committee may meet by videoconference with approval of a majority of
- 9 the committee members. Any action taken by the committee shall require a
- 10 <u>majority vote of the members.</u>
- 11 (5)(a) The committee shall (i) review investigations completed
- 12 pursuant to subdivision (2)(a) of section 76-2325, (ii) determine based
- 13 on such review whether any person has committed any violation described
- 14 <u>in subdivision (2)(b) of section 76-2325</u>, and (iii) determine the
- 15 appropriate civil penalty, if any, to be assessed for such violation
- 16 consistent with subdivision (2)(b)(ii) of section 76-2325.
- 17 <u>(b) No member of the committee who participated in an investigation</u>
- 18 conducted under subdivision (2)(a) of section 76-2325 shall participate
- 19 in a hearing upon any question in which such member or any business with
- 20 which such member is associated is a party.
- 21 Sec. 6. Section 76-2325, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 22 2022, is amended to read:
- 23 76-2325 (1) <u>Until September 1, 2024:</u>
- 24 (a) Any person who violates section 76-2320, 76-2320.01, 76-2320.02,
- 25 76-2321, 76-2322, 76-2323, 76-2326, 76-2330, or 76-2331 shall be subject
- 26 to a civil penalty as follows:
- 27 (i) (a) For a violation by an excavator or an operator related to a
- 28 gas or hazardous liquid underground pipeline facility or a fiber optic
- 29 telecommunications facility, an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars
- 30 for each violation for each day the violation persists, up to a maximum
- 31 of five hundred thousand dollars; and

2

AM868 LB412 MAL - 03/15/2023

- 1 (ii) (b) For a violation by an excavator or an operator related to
- 3 dollars for each day the violation persists, up to a maximum of fifty

any other underground facility, an amount not to exceed five thousand

- 4 thousand dollars; and  $\pm$
- 5 (b)  $\frac{(2)}{(2)}$  An action to recover a civil penalty shall be brought by the
- 6 Attorney General or a prosecuting attorney on behalf of the State of
- 7 Nebraska in any court of competent jurisdiction of this state. The trial
- 8 shall be before the court, which shall consider the nature,
- 9 circumstances, and gravity of the violation and, with respect to the
- 10 person found to have committed the violation, the degree of culpability,
- 11 the absence or existence of prior violations, whether the violation was a
- 12 willful act, any good faith attempt to achieve compliance, and such other
- 13 matters as justice may require in determining the amount of penalty
- 14 imposed. All penalties shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for
- 15 distribution in accordance with Article VII, section 5, of the
- 16 Constitution of Nebraska.
- 17 (2) Beginning September 1, 2024:
- 18 (a)(i) When the State Fire Marshal has reason to believe that any
- 19 person has committed any violation described in subdivision (b) of this
- 20 <u>subsection</u>, the State Fire Marshal may conduct an investigation to
- 21 determine the facts and circumstances of such alleged violation and, if
- 22 <u>conducted</u>, shall give prior notice of such investigation by first-class
- 23 <u>mail or electronic mail to such person.</u>
- 24 (ii) When any person other than the State Fire Marshal has reason to
- 25 believe that any violation described in subdivision (b) of this
- 26 <u>subsection has occurred, such person may submit information to the State</u>
- 27 Fire Marshal regarding such violation on a form prescribed by the State
- 28 Fire Marshal. Upon receipt of such information, the State Fire Marshal
- 29 <u>may conduct an investigation to determine the facts and circumstances of</u>
- 30 <u>such alleged violation and, if conducted, shall give prior notice of such</u>
- 31 <u>investigation</u> by first-class mail or electronic mail to both the person

AM868 AM868 LB412 MAL - 03/15/2023

1 being investigated and the person who submitted the information to the

- 2 State Fire Marshal.
- 3 (iii) The State Fire Marshal shall refer the findings of the
- investigation to the committee for its determination. Except as otherwise 4
- 5 provided in subdivision (2)(a)(iv) of this section, the committee shall
- 6 issue a written determination stating findings of fact, conclusions of
- 7 law, and the civil penalty, if any, to be assessed for such violation and
- 8 serve a copy of the written determination by personal service or by
- 9 certified mail, return receipt requested, upon such person. If the State
- 10 Fire Marshal's investigation was commenced based on information provided
- 11 pursuant to subdivision (2)(a)(ii) of this section, a copy of the written
- 12 determination shall also be delivered by first-class mail to the person
- 13 providing such information.
- 14 (iv) If the committee determines that the civil penalty to be
- 15 assessed for any violation exceeds the amount described in subdivision
- (2)(b)(iv) of this section, the committee shall refer the matter, 16
- together with the State Fire Marshal's findings and the committee's 17
- written determination, to the Attorney General for prosecution pursuant 18
- 19 to subdivision (2)(b)(v) of this section.
- 20 (v) Not later than thirty days after receipt of the committee's
- 21 written determination, any party may submit a written request to the
- 22 State Fire Marshal for a hearing on the matter. The committee shall then
- 23 appoint a hearing officer to conduct such hearing and set a hearing date
- 24 and provide written notice of hearing to the parties at least thirty days
- 25 prior to the date of the hearing. Such notice shall contain the name,
- 26 address, and telephone number of the hearing officer, a copy of the
- 27 written determination upon which the hearing shall be held, and the date,
- time, and place of hearing. The notice of hearing may be served by 28
- 29 personal service or by certified mail. If no hearing is requested in
- 30 answer to the written determination by the person found to have committed
- 31 any violation as described in subdivision (b) of this subsection, or if a

- 1 request for a hearing is withdrawn, such person shall pay any civil
- 2 penalty assessed within thirty days after receipt of the written
- 3 determination or within thirty days after cancellation of the hearing,
- 4 whichever is applicable.
- 5 (vi) In the preparation and conduct of the hearing, the hearing
- 6 officer shall have the power, on the hearing officer's own motion or upon
- 7 the request of any party, to compel the attendance of any witness and the
- 8 production of any documents by subpoena to ensure a fair hearing. The
- 9 hearing officer may administer oaths and examine witnesses and receive
- 10 any evidence pertinent to the determination of the matter. Any witnesses
- 11 <u>so subpoenaed shall be entitled to the same fees as prescribed by law in</u>
- 12 judicial proceedings in the district court of this state in a civil
- 13 <u>action and mileage at the same rate provided in section 81-1176 for state</u>
- 14 <u>employees</u>.
- 15 (vii) A party may appear at the hearing with or without the
- 16 assistance of counsel to present testimony, examine witnesses, and offer
- 17 <u>evidence</u>. A <u>stenographic record of all testimony and other evidence</u>
- 18 received at the hearing shall be made and preserved pending final
- 19 disposition of the matter.
- 20 <u>(viii) Unless all requests for hearing are withdrawn prior to the</u>
- 21 <u>hearing</u>, following the hearing the hearing officer shall prepare written
- 22 findings of fact and conclusions of law, and based on such findings of
- 23 <u>fact and conclusions of law, the committee shall affirm, modify, or</u>
- 24 reverse the written determination issued under subdivision (2)(a)(iii) of
- 25 this section and issue a final order. The committee's final order may
- 26 include an assessment of costs incurred in conducting the hearing,
- 27 <u>including the costs of the hearing officer and compelling the attendance</u>
- 28 of witnesses, and assess such costs against the parties. Any party
- 29 aggrieved by the final order of the committee may appeal the decision,
- 30 <u>and such appeal shall be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure</u>
- 31 Act; and

AM868 AM868 LB412 MAL - 03/15/2023

- 1 (b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(b)(ii) of this section,
- 2 any person who violates section 76-2320, 76-2320.01, 76-2320.02, 76-2321,
- 3 76-2322, 76-2323, 76-2326, 76-2330, or 76-2331 or any rule or regulation
- adopted and promulgated by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to section 4
- 5 76-2319 shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows:
- 6 (A) For a violation by an excavator or an operator related to a gas
- 7 or hazardous liquid underground pipeline facility or a fiber optic
- 8 telecommunications facility, an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars
- 9 for each violation for each day the violation persists, up to a maximum
- 10 of five hundred thousand dollars; and
- 11 (B) For a violation by an excavator or an operator related to any
- other underground facility, an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars 12
- 13 for each day the violation persists, up to a maximum of fifty thousand
- 14 dollars.
- 15 (ii) In addition to or in lieu of assessing a civil penalty as
- provided in subdivision (i) of this subsection, the committee may order 16
- 17 that a violator take and complete continuing education regarding
- compliance with the One-Call Notification System Act. Such continuing 18
- 19 education shall be approved by the State Fire Marshal.
- 20 (iii) When imposing a civil penalty, the committee shall consider
- 21 the nature, circumstances, and gravity of the violation and, with respect
- 22 to the person found to have committed the violation, the degree of
- 23 culpability, the absence or existence of prior violations, whether the
- 24 violation was a willful act, any good faith attempt to achieve
- 25 compliance, and such other matters as justice may require.
- 26 (iv) The committee shall not assess a civil penalty that is more
- 27 than ten thousand dollars per violation. The violator shall pay the costs
- 28 of the investigation as billed by the State Fire Marshal. The State Fire
- 29 Marshal shall remit such paid costs to the State Treasurer for credit to
- 30 the fund from which the costs were expended.
- 31 (v) As provided in subdivision (2)(a)(iv) of this section, for any

AM868 AM868 LB412 MAL - 03/15/2023 MAL - 03/15/2023

- investigation in which a civil penalty in excess of the amount described 1
- 2 in subdivision (2)(b)(iv) of this section is deemed justified by the
- 3 committee, the committee shall refer such matter to the Attorney General
- 4 or a prosecuting attorney who shall bring an action on behalf of the
- 5 State of Nebraska to recover such penalty in any court of competent
- jurisdiction of this state. The trial shall be before the court, which 6
- 7 shall consider the nature, circumstances, and gravity of the violation
- 8 and, with respect to the person found to have committed the violation,
- 9 the degree of culpability, the absence or existence of prior violations,
- whether the violation was a willful act, any good faith attempt to 10
- 11 achieve compliance, and such other matters as justice may require in
- 12 <u>determining the amount of penalty imposed.</u>
- 13 (vi) Costs incurred by the investigation conducted pursuant to
- 14 subdivision (2)(a) of this section may be sought as part of any judgment
- 15 against a violator. The State Fire Marshal shall remit any such recovered
- 16 costs to the State Treasurer for credit to the fund from which the costs
- 17 were expended.
- (vii) All civil penalties collected pursuant to this subsection 18
- 19 shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for distribution in accordance
- 20 with Article VII, section 5, of the Constitution of Nebraska.
- 21 Sec. 7. The State Fire Marshal shall adopt and promulgate rules and
- 22 regulations to carry out section 5 of this act and subsection (2) of
- 23 section 76-2325, including general rules of practice and procedure
- 24 relating to the committee, training requirements for investigators, and
- 25 rules governing the investigation process.
- 26 Sec. 8. Section 81-502.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 27 amended to read:
- 81-502.03 (1) In case of disagreement concerning the propriety of 28
- 29 any action taken or proposed to be taken by the State Fire Marshal or the
- 30 application of any statute, rule, or regulation under the jurisdiction of
- 31 the of his or her office with respect to any establishment or

installation, the State Fire Marshal may, and upon application of any 1 2 party in interest, shall provide for a hearing before the Nebraska Fire 3 Safety Appeals Board in the county of the establishment or installation which is the subject of the disagreement. At least ten days' written 4 5 notice shall be given to the governing body responsible for the 6 establishment or installation involved and to any public official having 7 jurisdiction. The board shall make a decision based upon the evidence 8 brought forth in the hearing and issue its order accordingly. Prior to 9 ordering any political or governmental subdivision of the State of Nebraska to make any modification in the design or construction of any 10 11 public building or any modification in the location, installation, or 12 operation of any existing equipment in any public building or to replace such equipment, the State Fire Marshal, his or her first assistant, or 13 14 one of his or her deputies shall personally appear at a regular meeting 15 of the governing board of such subdivision and present a written report stating the condition of such building or equipment and the reason why 16 17 such building should be modified or such equipment should be modified or replaced, and a copy of such report shall be attached to the order. 18 Nothing in this section shall prevent the State Fire Marshal from 19 20 ordering necessary repairs, and nothing in sections 81-502.01 to 21 81-502.03 shall prevent the State Fire Marshal, when actual and immediate 22 danger to life exists, from ordering and requiring the occupants to 23 vacate a building or structure subject to his or her jurisdiction.

- (2) This section shall not apply to any decision, determination, or
  other action taken or made by the State Fire Marshal or the Underground

  Excavation Safety Committee under the One-Call Notification System Act.
- Sec. 9. <u>Sections 9 to 15 of this act shall be known and may be</u>

  28 cited as the Rural Communications Sustainability Act.
- Sec. 10. <u>It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state to</u>

  30 <u>ensure that all Nebraskans have access to affordable and reliable</u>

  31 communications services in rural high-cost areas, and to ensure the long-

- 1 term sustainability of infrastructure necessary to preserve such access.
- 2 Sec. 11. For purposes of the Rural Communications Sustainability
- 3 Act:
- 4 <u>(1) Broadband deployment program means a federal or state program</u>
- 5 <u>authorizing payment of public funds for the purpose of deployment of</u>
- 6 <u>communications infrastructure;</u>
- 7 (2) Commission means the Public Service Commission;
- 8 (3) Communications infrastructure means infrastructure, facilities,
- 9 and equipment capable of providing broadband or telecommunications
- 10 services;
- 11 (4) Competitive provider means a communications provider as defined
- 12 in section 86-125, including, but not limited to, lawfully franchised
- 13 cable providers and competitive local exchange carriers in a local
- 14 <u>exchange area;</u>
- 15 <u>(5) Deployment project area means a contiguous geographic area</u>
- 16 consisting of locations serviceable by broadband or telecommunications
- 17 services determined by the granting agency for a project funded under a
- 18 broadband deployment program. A deployment project area may consist of
- 19 geographical areas in more than one local exchange area;
- 20 <u>(6) Eligible telecommunications carrier has the same meaning as in</u>
- 21 <u>section 86-134;</u>
- 22 <u>(7) Granting agency means any state agency or political subdivision</u>
- 23 of the state which has authority to award, grant, direct, or redirect
- 24 <u>public funds under a broadband deployment program;</u>
- 25 (8) Incumbent carrier means an incumbent carrier in a local exchange
- 26 area as defined by rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the
- 27 <u>commission; and</u>
- 28 (9) Local exchange area has the same meaning as in section 86-115.
- 29 Sec. 12. When determining a deployment project area, the granting
- 30 <u>agency shall collaborate with the Nebraska Broadband Office and the</u>
- 31 commission to ensure compliance with the Rural Communications

AM868 LB412 LB412 MAL - 03/15/2023 MAL - 03/15/2023

- 1 <u>Sustainability Act.</u>
- 2 Sec. 13. After a granting agency makes final payment of public
- 3 funds under a broadband deployment program to a competitive provider in a
- 4 deployment project area that is part of a local exchange area served by
- 5 <u>an incumbent carrier, upon request by the incumbent carrier the</u>
- 6 <u>commission shall:</u>
- 7 (1) Upon finding that the granting agency has determined the
- 8 competitive provider is in compliance with all requirements of the
- 9 broadband deployment program, relieve the incumbent carrier of eligible
- 10 <u>telecommunications carrier obligations and carrier of last resort</u>
- 11 <u>obligations in the deployment project area;</u>
- 12 (2) Consistent with rules of procedure adopted and promulgated by
- 13 the commission, make determinations related to allocations and
- 14 <u>distributions of support from the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal</u>
- 15 Service Fund for the deployment project area; and
- 16 (3) In coordination with the Federal Communications Commission, and
- 17 in consultation with the incumbent carrier and the competitive provider,
- 18 determine whether eligible telecommunications carrier and carrier of last
- 19 <u>resort obligations corresponding with support from the Nebraska</u>
- 20 <u>Telecommunications Universal Service Fund in the deployment project area</u>
- 21 <u>should be transferred to the competitive provider.</u>
- 22 Sec. 14. <u>In carrying out the Rural Communications Sustainability</u>
- 23 Act, the commission shall not:
- 24 (1) Require a competitive provider to accept or receive support from
- 25 the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund;
- 26 (2) Impose eligible telecommunications carrier responsibilities or
- 27 carrier of last resort obligations relating to the Nebraska
- 28 Telecommunications Universal Service Fund Act on a competitive provider
- 29 <u>in any deployment project area where the incumbent carrier or competitive</u>
- 30 provider is not actually receiving support from the Nebraska
- 31 <u>Telecommunications Universal Service Fund; or</u>

AM868 AM868 LB412 MAL - 03/15/2023 MAL - 03/15/2023

- (3) Impose eligible telecommunications carrier responsibilities or 1
- 2 carrier of last resort obligations on an incumbent carrier that are not
- 3 in existence as of the date of final payment made pursuant to section 13
- 4 of this act.
- 5 Sec. 15. The commission may adopt and promulgate rules and
- 6 regulations as necessary to carry out the Rural Communications
- 7 Sustainability Act.
- 8 Sec. 16. Section 86-1241, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 9 2022, is amended to read:
- 86-1241 (1) Except as provided by the Small Wireless Facilities 10
- 11 Deployment Act or applicable federal law, an authority shall continue to
- 12 exercise zoning, land-use, planning, and permit-granting authority within
- its territorial boundaries, including with respect to wireless support 13
- 14 structures and utility poles, except that no authority shall have or
- 15 exercise any jurisdiction or authority over the design, engineering,
- construction, installation, or operation of any small wireless facility 16
- 17 located in an interior structure or upon the site of any college or
- university campus, stadium, or athletic facility not owned or controlled 18
- by the authority, other than to comply with applicable codes. An 19
- 20 authority shall evaluate the structure classification for wireless
- 21 support structures under the standard of the American National Standards
- 22 Institute found in ANSI/TIA-222, as such standard existed on January 1,
- 23 2019. Nothing in the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act shall
- 24 authorize the State of Nebraska or any agency or political subdivision
- thereof, including an authority, to require wireless facility deployment 25
- 26 or to regulate wireless services.
- 27 (2) Except as provided in the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment
- Act or as otherwise specifically authorized by state or federal law, an 28
- 29 authority may not impose or collect a tax, fee, or rate on a
- 30 communications service provider authorized to operate in a right-of-way
- by federal, state, or local law for the provision of communications 31

AM868 AM868 LB412 MAL - 03/15/2023

the communications service provider's communications 1 service over

- 2 facilities in the right-of-way, adopt or enforce any regulations or
- 3 requirements on the placement or operation of communications facilities
- in the right-of-way by the communications service provider, or regulate 4
- 5 any communications services. This subsection does not apply to the
- 6 activities of a communications service provider that are outside the
- 7 scope of the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act.
- 8 Sec. 17. Section 86-1304, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 2022, is amended to read: 9
- 86-1304 (1)(a) A provider, a cooperative, a political subdivision, 10
- 11 or an Indian tribe may apply to the commission for a grant on forms
- 12 provided by the commission. The grant shall only be used for development
- costs for a qualifying project. The application shall indicate the 13
- 14 project area. The applicant shall provide matching funds equal to fifty
- 15 percent of the total development costs of the project if located outside
- a high-cost area, or twenty-five percent of the total development costs 16
- 17 of the project if located inside a high-cost area, as such areas are
- determined by the commission. The matching funds requirement in this 18
- subdivision shall not apply to any portion of a grant comprised of 19
- 20 federal funds. In order to qualify, the project is required to provide
- 21 broadband Internet service scalable to one hundred megabits per second
- 22 for downloading and one hundred megabits per second for uploading, or
- 23 greater. The commission shall establish deadlines for applications and
- 24 publish notice of the deadlines on the commission's website Applications
- shall be submitted on or before July 1 for each fiscal year. 25
- 26 (b) An application from a political subdivision or an Indian tribe
- 27 shall be made as part of a public-private partnership with a provider.
- (2)(a) As part of the application, the applicant shall agree to 28
- 29 complete the project within eighteen months after the date the grant is
- 30 awarded. The commission may permit extensions upon request and for good
- 31 cause shown.

- (b) If a grant recipient fails to complete the project by the agreed 1 2 or extended deadline, as the case may be, the recipient shall repay the 3 grant as provided in this subdivision. If no extension is permitted, ten percent of the grant shall be repaid for each month that the project is 4 5 not complete after the eighteen-month period, up to one hundred percent 6 of the grant. If an extension is permitted, twenty percent of the grant 7 shall be repaid for each month that the project is not complete after the 8 extension period, up to one hundred percent of the grant.
- 9 (3)(a) As part of the application, the applicant shall agree to
  10 submit the broadband network completed as a result of the grant to speed
  11 tests as determined by the commission. The grant recipient shall conduct
  12 the speed tests and submit the results to the commission. The speed tests
  13 shall be conducted for one week using a random sample of locations of
  14 consumers who subscribe to the network completed as a result of the
  15 grant.
- (b) If the broadband network does not provide service at the speeds 16 17 required pursuant to subdivision (1)(a) of this section according to the speed tests under subdivision (3)(a) of this section, the grant recipient 18 shall be allowed a reasonable time to address the speed deficiencies and 19 20 conduct a second set of speed tests as described in subdivision (3)(a) of 21 this section. If the broadband network does not provide service at the 22 speeds required pursuant to subdivision (1)(a) of this section according 23 to the second set of speed tests, the grant recipient shall repay the 24 grant.
- Sec. 18. Section 86-1312, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 26 2022, is amended to read:
- 27 86-1312 (1) Any political subdivision of the state that allocates 28 funds received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for 29 eligible broadband infrastructure projects may coordinate with the 30 commission by mutual consent to administer such federal funds in a manner 31 consistent with the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act.

AM868 LB412 LB412 MAL - 03/15/2023 MAL - 03/15/2023

- 1 (2) In administering federal funds pursuant to subsection (1) of
- 2 this section, the commission may allocate such funds received for
- 3 <u>eligible projects awarded grants under subdivision (1)(c) of section</u>
- 4 81-12,245 to any portion of a local exchange area containing a city of
- 5 <u>the second class or village.</u>
- 6 Sec. 19. Original section 81-502.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 7 Nebraska, and sections 76-2301, 76-2303, 76-2323, 76-2325, 86-1241,
- 8 86-1304, and 86-1312, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022, are
- 9 repealed.
- 10 Sec. 20. The following section is outright repealed: Section
- 11 76-2325.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022.
- 12 Sec. 21. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
- 13 passed and approved according to law.