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P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 161, *approved July 7, 2021*
 Assembly, No. 850 (Fifth Reprint)

1 AN ACT establishing the “²**[Community]**² Broadband ²Access²
 2 Study Commission.”

3
 4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
 5 of New Jersey:

6
 7 1. a. There is established ⁵in the Board of Public Utilities⁵ the
 8 “²**[Community]**² Broadband ²Access² Study Commission.” The
 9 commission shall consist of ²**[11]** ⁴**[12²]** ⁵**[13⁴]** ¹⁹ members as
 10 follows:

11 (1) the President of the Board of Public Utilities, ex officio, or
 12 the president’s designee, who shall serve as chairperson of the
 13 commission;

14 (2) the Chief Technology Officer of the Office of Information
 15 Technology, ex officio, or the officer’s designee;

16 (3) the Director of the Division of Rate Counsel, ex officio, or
 17 the director’s designee;

18 (4) ²the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, ex officio,
 19 or the secretary’s designee;

20 ⁵(5) the Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Economic
 21 Development Authority, ex officio, or the officer’s designee;

22 (6) the Commissioner of the Department of Education, ex
 23 officio, or the commissioner’s designee;

24 (7) the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs,
 25 ex officio, or the commissioner’s designee;

26 (8) three public members to be appointed by the Governor, who
 27 shall have expertise in community broadband networks and
 28 infrastructure;

29 ²**[(5)²]** ⁹⁵ ¹**[two members]** one member¹ of the Senate to be
 30 appointed by the ⁵Governor, upon the recommendation of the⁵
 31 President of the Senate ¹**[**, which members shall not be of the same
 32 political party¹**]**;

33 ²**[(5)]** ⁵**[(6)²]** ¹⁰⁵ ¹**[two members]** one member¹ of the
 34 General Assembly to be appointed by the ⁵Governor, upon the
 35 recommendation of the⁵ Speaker of the General Assembly ¹**[**,
 36 which members shall not be of the same political party¹**]**;

37 ²**[(6)]** ⁵**[(7)²]** ¹¹⁵ ¹**[two]** three¹ public members to be
 38 appointed by ⁵the Governor, upon recommendation by⁵ the
 39 President of the Senate, who shall include an individual with

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
 not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AST committee amendments adopted August 10, 2020.

²Senate SEG committee amendments adopted December 10, 2020.

³Senate floor amendments adopted January 11, 2021.

⁴Assembly floor amendments adopted March 1, 2021.

⁵Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's
 recommendations May 17, 2021.

1 expertise in community broadband networks and infrastructure and
 2 an individual with expertise in municipal and county governance or
 3 public utilities ¹, with one individual residing in the northern region
 4 of the State, one individual residing in the central region of the
 5 State, and one individual residing in the southern region of the
 6 State¹; ⁴[and]⁴

7 ²[(7)] ⁵[(8)²] (12)⁵ ¹[two] three¹ public members to be
 8 appointed by ⁵the Governor, upon recommendation by⁵ the Speaker
 9 of the General Assembly, who shall include at least one individual
 10 with expertise in community broadband networks and infrastructure
 11 and an individual with expertise in municipal and county
 12 governance or public utilities ¹, with one individual residing in the
 13 northern region of the State, one individual residing in the central
 14 region of the State, and one individual residing in the southern
 15 region of the State^{1 4}; and

16 ⁵[(9)] (13)⁵ a member representing the New Jersey Library
 17 Association to be appointed by the ⁵Governor, upon the
 18 recommendation of the⁵ association's executive board⁴ .

19 b. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be
 20 filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was
 21 made.

22 c. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation
 23 but shall be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable expenses
 24 incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this act
 25 within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available
 26 to the commission for its purposes.

27 d. For the purpose of this act ²[.]:

28 “broadband network” means a state-of-the-art network capable of
 29 delivering download and upload speeds of no less than the standards
 30 as defined by the Federal Communications Commission. The actual
 31 speeds must be adjusted upwards to allow for improved
 32 technologies and usage requirements as determined by the
 33 commission.

34 “broadband service” means any telecommunications service
 35 using a broadband network for the purpose of offering high speed,
 36 switched, broadband wireline telecommunications capability that
 37 enables users to originate and receive high-quality voice, data,
 38 graphics, or video telecommunications through the Internet and
 39 using any technology.²

40 “community broadband network” means a local shared network
 41 consisting of a series of interlinked computers that allow persons
 42 with devices connected to a wired network within the area served to
 43 gain entry to the wider Internet through high speed Internet service
 44 connections at designated access points.

45
 46 2. The commission shall organize as soon as possible after the
 47 appointment of a majority of the commission's members and shall

1 meet at the call of the chairperson at the times and in the places it
2 may deem appropriate and necessary to fulfill its duties.

3 3. ²a. The commission shall evaluate the impediments of access
4 to broadband service for all residents of New Jersey. The
5 commission shall look at issues, including but not limited to,
6 physical access, deployment, and affordability of broadband
7 service.

8 b.² The commission shall evaluate the feasibility of establishing
9 community broadband networks in this State ²pursuant to the goals
10 of this act². The commission shall be responsible for, but not be
11 limited to, the following:

12 ²[a.] (1)² considering whether leasing or purchasing established
13 broadband infrastructure, such as ³, but not limited to,³ unused fiber
14 optic cable ³and unused broadcast television signal space³, is more
15 advantageous in ²[creating a faster network] achieving the goals
16 pursuant to this act;²

17 ²[b.] (2)² considering whether establishing a community
18 broadband municipal or county agency or a non-profit corporation
19 is more appropriate to administer ²[the community] a² broadband
20 network;

21 ²[c.] (3)² evaluating the different methods, including legislation
22 and contracts with private companies, that other municipalities or
23 counties in this country have used to implement community
24 broadband networks;

25 ²[d.] (4)² determining the most cost effective method in which
26 to establish community broadband networks, with a cost estimate
27 for the local government and a rate estimate for paying customers;
28 and

29 ²[e.] (5)² exploring all possible federal, State, and private
30 funding sources for the establishment of community broadband
31 networks in this State.

32

33 4. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
34 avail itself of the services of the officials and employees of the
35 State and its political subdivisions and their departments, boards,
36 bureaus, commissions, and agencies as it may require and as may be
37 available to it for the purposes of the commission. The Board of
38 Public Utilities shall provide staff support services to the
39 commission.

40

41 5. The commission shall report its findings, conclusions, and
42 recommendations to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
43 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature no later than one
44 year following the first meeting of the commission. The
45 commission shall expire upon the submission of the commission's
46 report, pursuant to this section.

1 6. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
2 the submission by the commission of its report pursuant to section 5
3 of this act.

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Establishes "Broadband Access Study Commission."

ASSEMBLY, No. 850

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Benson

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Community Broadband Study Commission.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/10/2020)

1 AN ACT establishing the “Community Broadband Study
2 Commission.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. There is established the “Community Broadband Study
8 Commission.” The commission shall consist of 11 members as
9 follows:

10 (1) the President of the Board of Public Utilities, ex officio, or
11 the president’s designee, who shall serve as chairperson of the
12 commission;

13 (2) the Chief Technology Officer of the Office of Information
14 Technology, ex officio, or the officer’s designee;

15 (3) the Director of the Division of Rate Counsel, ex officio, or
16 the director’s designee;

17 (4) two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President
18 of the Senate, which members shall not be of the same political
19 party;

20 (5) two members of the General Assembly to be appointed by
21 the Speaker of the General Assembly, which members shall not be
22 of the same political party;

23 (6) two public members to be appointed by the President of the
24 Senate, who shall include an individual with expertise in
25 community broadband networks and infrastructure and an
26 individual with expertise in municipal and county governance or
27 public utilities; and

28 (7) two public members to be appointed by the Speaker of the
29 General Assembly, who shall include at least one individual with
30 expertise in community broadband networks and infrastructure and
31 an individual with expertise in municipal and county governance or
32 public utilities.

33 b. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be
34 filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was
35 made.

36 c. Members of the commission shall serve without
37 compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable
38 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this
39 act within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made
40 available to the commission for its purposes.

41 d. For the purposes of this act, “community broadband
42 network” means a local shared network consisting of a series of
43 interlinked computers that allow persons with devices connected to
44 a wired network within the area served to gain entry to the wider
45 Internet through high speed Internet service connections at
46 designated access points.

47

48 2. The commission shall organize as soon as possible after the
49 appointment of a majority of the commission’s members and shall

1 meet at the call of the chairperson at the times and in the places it
2 may deem appropriate and necessary to fulfill its duties.

3

4 3. The commission shall evaluate the feasibility of establishing
5 community broadband networks in this State. The commission
6 shall be responsible for, but not be limited to, the following:

7 (1) considering whether leasing or purchasing established
8 broadband infrastructure, such as unused fiber optic cable, is more
9 advantageous in creating a faster network;

10 (2) considering whether establishing a community broadband
11 municipal or county agency or a non-profit corporation is more
12 appropriate to administer the community broadband network;

13 (3) evaluating the different methods, including legislation and
14 contracts with private companies, that other municipalities or
15 counties in this country have used to implement community
16 broadband networks;

17 (4) determining the most cost effective method in which to
18 establish community broadband networks, with a cost estimate for
19 the local government and a rate estimate for paying customers; and

20 (5) exploring all possible federal, State, and private funding
21 sources for the establishment of community broadband networks in
22 this State.

23

24 4. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
25 avail itself of the services of the officials and employees of the
26 State and its political subdivisions and their departments, boards,
27 bureaus, commissions, and agencies as it may require and as may be
28 available to it for the purposes of the commission. The Board of
29 Public Utilities shall provide staff support services to the
30 commission.

31

32 5. The commission shall report its findings, conclusions, and
33 recommendations to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
34 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature no later than one
35 year following the first meeting of the commission. The
36 commission shall expire upon the submission of the commission's
37 report, pursuant to this section.

38

39 6. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
40 the submission by the commission of its report pursuant to section 5
41 of this act.

42

43

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STATEMENT

45

46 This bill establishes the "Community Broadband Study
47 Commission."

48 The commission is to evaluate the feasibility of establishing
49 community broadband networks in this State and is responsible for

1 the following: (1) considering whether leasing or purchasing
2 established broadband infrastructure, such as unused fiber optic
3 cable, is more advantageous in creating a faster network; (2)
4 considering whether establishing a community broadband municipal
5 or county agency or a non-profit corporation is more appropriate to
6 administer the community broadband network; (3) evaluating the
7 different methods, including legislation and contracts with private
8 companies, that other municipalities or counties in this country have
9 used to implement community broadband networks; (4) determining
10 the most cost effective method in which to establish community
11 broadband networks, with a cost estimate for the local government
12 and a rate estimate for paying customers; and (5) exploring all
13 possible federal, State, and private funding sources for the
14 establishment of community broadband networks in the State.

15 The commission is to report its findings, conclusions, and
16 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than
17 one year following the first meeting of the commission. The
18 commission and this act expire upon the submission of the
19 commission's report.

ASSEMBLY SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 850

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: AUGUST 10, 2020

The Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 850.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill establishes the “Community Broadband Study Commission” (commission).

Under the bill, the commission is to evaluate the feasibility of establishing community broadband networks in this State and is responsible for the following: 1) considering whether leasing or purchasing established broadband infrastructure, such as unused fiber optic cable, is more advantageous in creating a faster network; 2) considering whether establishing a community broadband municipal or county agency or a non-profit corporation is more appropriate to administer the community broadband network; 3) evaluating the different methods, including legislation and contracts with private companies, that other municipalities or counties in this country have used to implement community broadband networks; 4) determining the most cost effective method in which to establish community broadband networks, with a cost estimate for the local government and a rate estimate for paying customers; and 5) exploring all possible federal, State, and private funding sources for the establishment of community broadband networks in the State.

The commission is to report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than one year following the first meeting of the commission. The commission is to expire upon the submission of the commission’s report.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2020-2021 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to remove one member of the Senate and one member of the General Assembly from the commission’s membership and to add two public members to the

commission, one of whom is to be appointed by the President of the Senate and one of whom is to be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly. The amendments also create geographic diversity among the public members of the commission.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 850

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2020

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 850 (1R).

As amended and reported, this bill establishes the “Broadband Access Study Commission” (commission). Under the bill, the commission is to evaluate impediments to broadband service access and to evaluate the feasibility of establishing community broadband networks in this State and is responsible for the following: 1) considering whether leasing or purchasing established broadband infrastructure, such as unused fiber optic cable, is more advantageous in creating a faster network; 2) considering whether establishing a community broadband municipal or county agency or a non-profit corporation is more appropriate to administer the community broadband network; 3) evaluating the different methods, including legislation and contracts with private companies, that other municipalities or counties in this country have used to implement community broadband networks; 4) determining the most cost effective method in which to establish community broadband networks, with a cost estimate for the local government and a rate estimate for paying customers; and 5) exploring all possible federal, State, and private funding sources for the establishment of community broadband networks in the State. Additionally, the commission is to evaluate impediments to broadband service access for all New Jersey residents.

The commission is to report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than one year following the first meeting of the commission. The commission is to expire upon the submission of the commission’s report.

The committee amended the bill to change the name of the commission, to edit the composition of the commission, include “broadband network” and “broadband service” as defined terms, and to include the evaluation of impediments to broadband service access as part of the commission’s duties.

As amended and reported, Assembly Bill No. 850 (1R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 2864, which was also reported and amended by the committee on this date.

STATEMENT TO
[Second Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 850

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator OROHO)

ADOPTED: JANUARY 11, 2021

This floor amendment requires the Broadband Access Study Commission to include the availability of unused broadcast television signal space, in considering whether leasing or purchasing established broadband infrastructure is more advantageous in achieving the goals of the bill.

STATEMENT TO
[Third Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 850

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblyman CHIARAVALLOTI)

ADOPTED: MARCH 1, 2021

This floor amendment increases the number of members of the “Broadband Access Study Commission” to 13 by adding a member representing the New Jersey Library Association to be appointed by the association’s executive board.

SENATE, No. 2864

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Community Broadband Study Commission.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the “Community Broadband Study
2 Commission.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. a. There is established the “Community Broadband Study
8 Commission.” The commission shall consist of 11 members as
9 follows:

10 (1) the President of the Board of Public Utilities, ex officio, or
11 the president’s designee, who shall serve as chairperson of the
12 commission;

13 (2) the Chief Technology Officer of the Office of Information
14 Technology, ex officio, or the officer’s designee;

15 (3) the Director of the Division of Rate Counsel, ex officio, or
16 the director’s designee;

17 (4) one member of the Senate to be appointed by the President
18 of the Senate;

19 (5) one member of the General Assembly to be appointed by the
20 Speaker of the General Assembly;

21 (6) three public members to be appointed by the President of the
22 Senate, who shall include an individual with expertise in
23 community broadband networks and infrastructure and an
24 individual with expertise in municipal and county governance or
25 public utilities, with one individual residing in the northern region
26 of the State, one individual residing in the central region of the
27 State, and one individual residing in the southern region of the
28 State; and

29 (7) three public members to be appointed by the Speaker of the
30 General Assembly, who shall include at least one individual with
31 expertise in community broadband networks and infrastructure and
32 an individual with expertise in municipal and county governance or
33 public utilities, with one individual residing in the northern region
34 of the State, one individual residing in the central region of the
35 State, and one individual residing in the southern region of the
36 State.

37 b. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be
38 filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was
39 made.

40 c. Members of the commission shall serve without
41 compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable
42 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this
43 act within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made
44 available to the commission for its purposes.

45 d. For the purposes of this act, “community broadband
46 network” means a local shared network consisting of a series of
47 interlinked computers that allow persons with devices connected to
48 a wired network within the area served to gain entry to the wider

S2864 OROHO, SINGLETON

1 Internet through high speed Internet service connections at
2 designated access points.

3

4 2. The commission shall organize as soon as possible after the
5 appointment of a majority of the commission's members and shall
6 meet at the call of the chairperson at the times and in the places it
7 may deem appropriate and necessary to fulfill its duties.

8

9 3. The commission shall evaluate the feasibility of establishing
10 community broadband networks in this State. The commission
11 shall be responsible for, but not be limited to, the following:

12 (1) considering whether leasing or purchasing established
13 broadband infrastructure, such as, but not limited to, unused fiber
14 optic cable and unused broadcast television signal space, is more
15 advantageous in creating a faster network;

16 (2) considering whether establishing a community broadband
17 municipal or county agency or a non-profit corporation is more
18 appropriate to administer the community broadband network;

19 (3) evaluating the different methods, including legislation and
20 contracts with private companies, that other municipalities or
21 counties in this country have used to implement community
22 broadband networks;

23 (4) determining the most cost effective method in which to
24 establish community broadband networks, with a cost estimate for
25 the local government and a rate estimate for paying customers; and

26 (5) exploring all possible federal, State, and private funding
27 sources for the establishment of community broadband networks in
28 this State.

29

30 4. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
31 avail itself of the services of the officials and employees of the
32 State and its political subdivisions and their departments, boards,
33 bureaus, commissions, and agencies as it may require and as may be
34 available to it for the purposes of the commission. The Board of
35 Public Utilities shall provide staff support services to the
36 commission.

37

38 5. The commission shall report its findings, conclusions, and
39 recommendations to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
40 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature no later than one
41 year following the first meeting of the commission. The
42 commission shall expire upon the submission of the commission's
43 report, pursuant to this section.

44

45 6. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
46 the submission by the commission of its report pursuant to section 5
47 of this act.

STATEMENT

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This bill establishes the “Community Broadband Study Commission” (commission). Under the bill, the commission is to evaluate the feasibility of establishing community broadband networks in this State and is responsible for the following: 1) considering whether leasing or purchasing established broadband infrastructure, such as, but not limited to, unused fiber optic cable and unused broadcast television signal space, is more advantageous in creating a faster network; 2) considering whether establishing a community broadband municipal or county agency or a non-profit corporation is more appropriate to administer the community broadband network; 3) evaluating the different methods, including legislation and contracts with private companies, that other municipalities or counties in this country have used to implement community broadband networks; 4) determining the most cost effective method in which to establish community broadband networks, with a cost estimate for the local government and a rate estimate for paying customers; and 5) exploring all possible federal, State, and private funding sources for the establishment of community broadband networks in the State.

The commission is to report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than one year following the first meeting of the commission. The commission is to expire upon the submission of the commission’s report.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2864

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2020

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2864.

As amended and reported, this bill establishes the “Broadband Access Study Commission” (commission). Under the bill, the commission is to evaluate impediments to broadband service access and to evaluate the feasibility of establishing community broadband networks in this State and is responsible for the following: 1) considering whether leasing or purchasing established broadband infrastructure, such as unused fiber optic cable, is more advantageous in creating a faster network; 2) considering whether establishing a community broadband municipal or county agency or a non-profit corporation is more appropriate to administer the community broadband network; 3) evaluating the different methods, including legislation and contracts with private companies, that other municipalities or counties in this country have used to implement community broadband networks; 4) determining the most cost effective method in which to establish community broadband networks, with a cost estimate for the local government and a rate estimate for paying customers; and 5) exploring all possible federal, State, and private funding sources for the establishment of community broadband networks in the State. Additionally, the commission is to evaluate impediments to broadband service access for all New Jersey residents.

The commission is to report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than one year following the first meeting of the commission. The commission is to expire upon the submission of the commission’s report.

The committee amended the bill to change the name of the commission, to edit the composition of the commission, include “broadband network” and “broadband service” as defined terms, and to include the evaluation of impediments to broadband service access as part of the commission’s duties.

As amended and reported, Senate Bill No. 2864 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 850 (1R), which was also reported and amended by the committee on this date.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 2864

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator OROHO)

ADOPTED: JANUARY 11, 2021

This floor amendment requires the Broadband Access Study Commission to include the availability of unused broadcast television signal space, in considering whether leasing or purchasing established broadband infrastructure is more advantageous in achieving the goals of the bill.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

05/12/2021

TRENTON – Today, Governor Phil Murphy signed the following bills into law:

A-740/S-2846 (Johnson, Conaway, DeCroce/Gopal, Singleton) – Requires State agencies in awarding contracts for purchase of items that require power source to consider items powered by fuel cells

A-3384/S-3171 (McKeon/Pou) – Makes various revisions to "Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act"; renames act to "Uniform Voidable Transactions Act"

A-4240/S-2855 (Downey, Vainieri Huttel, Houghtaling, Coughlin/Pou, Turner) – Provides for technological upgrade of application process for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

A-4246/S-3175 (Verrelli, Benson, Vainieri Huttel/Pou, Corrado) – Permits expedited licensure in mental health professions for certain individuals during state of emergency or public health emergency

A-4477/S-2789 (Chiaravalloti, Conaway, Downey/Vitale, Weinberg) – Revises licensure, operational, and reporting requirements for nursing homes

ACS for A-4556 and 4145/S-2611 (Karabinchak, Zwicker, Quijano/Smith, Bateman) – Requires BPU to establish and maintain electronic public document search system on its website; requires BPU to provide certain notice of its meetings and hold quarterly public comment meetings

A-4671/S-3326 (Schaer, Swain, Tully/Ruiz, Singleton) – Requires public and local utilities to provide notice to residential customers of available relief measures during coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic

ACS for A-4805/SCS for S-3169 (Freiman, Tully, Danielsen/Pou, Gopal) – Requires certain insurers to provide summary concerning business interruption insurance

A-4806/S-3188 (Dancer, Chiaravalloti/Pou, Singleton) – Permits municipalities to authorize programs encouraging local shopping through property tax rewards; validates certain related municipal actions

A-4932/S-3066 (Johnson, Murphy, Downey/Pou) – Permits use of alternate names by limited liability partnerships

A-5222/S-3306 (Mukherji, Verrelli, Lopez/Diegnan, Turner) – Authorizes optometrists to administer immunizations against coronaviruses and influenza under certain circumstances

Governor Murphy conditionally vetoed the following bills:

A-850/S-2864 (Chiaravalloti, Karabinchak, Reynolds-Jackson/Oroho, Singleton) – **CONDITIONAL** – Establishes "Broadband Access Study Commission"

[Copy of Statement](#)

A-2116/S-2009 (Tully, Swain, Armato/Lagana) – **CONDITIONAL** – Requires State Treasurer to submit report to Legislature every six months identifying deadlines for applications for federal funds by State

agencies

Copy of Statement

May 12, 2021

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 850
(Fourth Reprint)

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 850 (Fourth Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill establishes the Community Broadband Study Commission ("Commission"). The Commission will evaluate broadband access in New Jersey and assess impediments to access, including physical access, deployment, and affordability. The Commission will particularly focus on community networks and will evaluate the effectiveness of various models of organizing, financing, and setting up such networks. The Commission will present its findings to me and the Legislature no less than one year after its first meeting.

The Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has highlighted the importance of reliable highspeed internet access, as more people than ever rely on the internet to work, attend school, obtain medical care, stay in touch with loved ones, and conduct countless other critical tasks of daily life. Ensuring that all New Jersey residents have reliable and affordable internet access is therefore a matter of equity. I stand with the sponsors in their concern for this issue, and commend them for establishing this Commission, which will play an important role in helping us better understand the barriers and possible solutions to internet access in underserved communities. In order to strengthen the Commission and enable it to effectively fulfill its role, I am placing the Commission fully within the Board of Public Utilities, whose expertise in matters related to telecommunication and public utilities will be an asset to the Commission. I am also recommending changes to appropriately modify the roles of the

different branches in the appointment process. My recommended changes also supplement the membership of the Commission with representatives from additional State entities, including the Economic Development Authority, the Department of Education, and the Department of Community Affairs, to ensure that the Commission has the benefit of additional relevant Executive Branch expertise and perspectives in carrying out its mission.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 850 (Fourth Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

- Page 2, Section 1, Line 7: After "established" insert "in the Board of Public Utilities"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 9: Delete "13" and insert "19"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 18: After "designee;" insert "(5) the Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, ex officio, or the officer's designee; (6) the Commissioner of the Department of Education, ex officio, or the commissioner's designee; (7) the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, ex officio, or the commissioner's designee; (8) three public members to be appointed by the Governor, who shall have expertise in community broadband networks and infrastructure"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 19: Delete "(5)" and insert "(9)"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 20: After "by the" insert "Governor, upon the recommendation of the"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 22: Delete "(6)" and insert "(10)"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 23: After "by the" insert "Governor, upon the recommendation of the"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 25: Delete "(7)" and insert "(11)"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 25: After "by" insert "the Governor, upon recommendation by"
- Page 2, Section 1, Line 32: Delete "(8)" and insert "(12)"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 32:

After "by" insert "the
Governor, upon recommendation
by"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 40:

Delete "(9)" and insert "(13)"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 41:

After "the" insert "Governor,
upon the recommendation of
the"

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

07/7/2021

TRENTON - Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

A-850 wGR/S-2864 (Chiaravalloti, Karabinchak, Reynolds-Jackson/Oroho, Singleton) – Establishes “Broadband Access Study Commission”

A-4804/S-3115 (Downey, Houghtaling, Speight/Gopal, Pou) – Modifies process for obtaining working certificates for minors

A-5825/S-3487 (Coughlin/Sweeney) – Changes effective date of Garden State Health Plan; exempts certain charter and renaissance schools from certain healthcare plan requirements; requires certain negotiations over certain health care costs