

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1336

67th Legislature
2021 Regular Session

Passed by the House April 23, 2021
Yeas 65 Nays 32

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 11, 2021
Yeas 27 Nays 22

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1336** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1336

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2021 Regular Session

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By House Community & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Hansen, Ybarra, Berry, Simmons, Ramel, Valdez, Leavitt, Morgan, Ryu, Peterson, Shewmake, Davis, Ormsby, Gilday, Stonier, Eslick, Pollet, and Harris-Talley)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating and expanding unrestricted authority
2 for public entities to provide telecommunications services to end
3 users; amending RCW 54.16.005, 54.16.330, 54.16.425, 53.08.005,
4 53.08.370, and 43.155.070; adding a new section to chapter 54.16 RCW;
5 adding a new section to chapter 35.27 RCW; adding a new section to
6 chapter 35.23 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 36.01 RCW; adding
7 a new section to chapter 53.08 RCW; creating a new section; and
8 repealing RCW 54.16.420.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

10 **Sec. 1.** RCW 54.16.005 and 2000 c 81 s 2 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
13 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

14 (1) "Broadband infrastructure" means networks of deployed
15 telecommunications equipment and technologies necessary to provide
16 high-speed internet access and other advanced telecommunications
17 services.

18 (2) "Commission" means the Washington utilities and
19 transportation commission.

20 ((+2)) (3) "District commission" means the governing board of a
21 public utility district.

1 (4) "Retail telecommunications services" means the sale, lease,
2 license, or indivisible right of use of telecommunications services
3 or telecommunications facilities directly to end users.

4 (5) "Telecommunications" has the same meaning as ((that
5 contained)) defined in RCW 80.04.010.

6 ~~((3))~~ (6) "Telecommunications facilities" means lines,
7 conduits, ducts, poles, wires, cables, crossarms, receivers,
8 transmitters, instruments, machines, appliances, instrumentalities
9 and all devices, real estate, easements, apparatus, property, and
10 routes used, operated, owned, or controlled by any entity to
11 facilitate the provision of telecommunications services.

12 ~~((4))~~ (7) "Wholesale telecommunications services" means the
13 provision of telecommunications services or telecommunications
14 facilities for resale ((by)) to an entity ((authorized to provide))
15 that provides retail telecommunications services ((to the general
16 public and internet service providers)).

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 54.16.330 and 2019 c 365 s 9 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1)~~((a))~~ A public utility district in existence on June 8,
20 2000, may construct, purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease,
21 license, handle, provide, add to, contract for, interconnect, alter,
22 improve, repair, operate, and maintain any telecommunications
23 facilities within or without the district's limits for the following
24 purposes:

25 ~~((i))~~ (a) For the district's internal telecommunications needs;
26 ~~((ii) For the provision of wholesale telecommunications services~~
27 ~~within the district and by contract with another public utility~~
28 ~~district.~~

29 ~~(b) Except as provided in subsection (8) of this section, nothing~~
30 ~~in this section shall be construed to authorize public utility~~
31 ~~districts to provide telecommunications services to end users))~~ (b)
32 For the provision of wholesale telecommunications services as
33 follows:

34 (i) Within the district and by contract with another public
35 utility district;

36 (ii) Within an area in an adjoining county that is already
37 provided electrical services by the district; or

38 (iii) Within an adjoining county that does not have a public
39 utility district providing electrical or telecommunications services

1 headquartered within the county's boundaries, but only if the
2 district providing telecommunications services is not authorized to
3 provide electrical services; or

4 (c) For the provision of retail telecommunications services as
5 authorized in this section.

6 (2) A public utility district providing wholesale or retail
7 telecommunications services shall ensure that rates, terms, and
8 conditions for such services are not unduly or unreasonably
9 discriminatory or preferential. Rates, terms, and conditions are
10 discriminatory or preferential when a public utility district
11 offering rates, terms, and conditions to an entity for wholesale or
12 retail telecommunications services does not offer substantially
13 similar rates, terms, and conditions to all other entities seeking
14 substantially similar services.

15 (3) A public utility district providing wholesale or retail
16 telecommunications services shall not be required to, but may,
17 establish a separate utility system or function for such purpose. In
18 either case, a public utility district providing wholesale or retail
19 telecommunications services shall separately account for any revenues
20 and expenditures for those services according to standards
21 established by the state auditor pursuant to its authority in chapter
22 43.09 RCW and consistent with the provisions of this title. Any
23 revenues received from the provision of wholesale or retail
24 telecommunications services must be dedicated to costs incurred to
25 build and maintain any telecommunications facilities constructed,
26 installed, or acquired to provide such services, including payments
27 on debt issued to finance such services, until such time as any bonds
28 or other financing instruments executed after June 8, 2000, and used
29 to finance such telecommunications facilities are discharged or
30 retired.

31 (4) When a public utility district provides wholesale or retail
32 telecommunications services, all telecommunications services rendered
33 to the district for the district's internal telecommunications needs
34 shall be allocated or charged at its true and full value. A public
35 utility district may not charge its nontelecommunications operations
36 rates that are preferential or discriminatory compared to those it
37 charges entities purchasing wholesale or retail telecommunications
38 services.

39 (5) If a person or entity receiving retail telecommunications
40 services from a public utility district under this section has a

1 complaint regarding the reasonableness of the rates, terms,
2 conditions, or services provided, the person or entity may file a
3 complaint with the district commission.

4 (6) A public utility district shall not exercise powers of
5 eminent domain to acquire telecommunications facilities or
6 contractual rights held by any other person or entity to
7 telecommunications facilities.

8 (7) Except as otherwise specifically provided, a public utility
9 district may exercise any of the powers granted to it under this
10 title and other applicable laws in carrying out the powers authorized
11 under this section. Nothing in chapter 81, Laws of 2000 limits any
12 existing authority of a public utility district under this title.

13 ~~((8) (a) If an internet service provider operating on~~
14 ~~telecommunications facilities of a public utility district that~~
15 ~~provides wholesale telecommunications services but does not provide~~
16 ~~retail telecommunications services, ceases to provide access to the~~
17 ~~internet to its end-use customers, and no other retail service~~
18 ~~providers are willing to provide service, the public utility district~~
19 ~~may provide retail telecommunications services to the end-use~~
20 ~~customers of the defunct internet service provider in order for end-~~
21 ~~use customers to maintain access to the internet until a replacement~~
22 ~~internet service provider is, or providers are, in operation.~~

23 ~~(b) Within thirty days of an internet service provider ceasing to~~
24 ~~provide access to the internet, the public utility district must~~
25 ~~initiate a process to find a replacement internet service provider or~~
26 ~~providers to resume providing access to the internet using~~
27 ~~telecommunications facilities of a public utility district.~~

28 ~~(c) For a maximum period of five months, following initiation of~~
29 ~~the process begun in (b) of this section, or, if earlier than five~~
30 ~~months, until a replacement internet service provider is, or~~
31 ~~providers are, in operation, the district commission may establish a~~
32 ~~rate for providing access to the internet and charge customers to~~
33 ~~cover expenses necessary to provide access to the internet.~~

34 ~~(9) The tax treatment of the retail telecommunications services~~
35 ~~provided by a public utility district to the end-use customers during~~
36 ~~the period specified in subsection (8) of this section must be the~~
37 ~~same as if those retail telecommunications services were provided by~~
38 ~~the defunct internet service provider.))~~

39 (8) A public utility district may provide retail
40 telecommunications services or telecommunications facilities within

1 the district's limits or without the district's limits by contract
2 with another public utility district, any political subdivision of
3 the state authorized to provide retail telecommunications services in
4 the state, or with any federally recognized tribe located in the
5 state of Washington.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 54.16
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Before providing retail telecommunications services, a public
9 utility district must report to its governing body and to the state
10 broadband office the following about the area to be served by the
11 public utility district:

12 (a) An assessment of the current availability of broadband
13 infrastructure and its adequacy to provide high-speed internet access
14 and other advanced telecommunications services to end users;

15 (b) The location of where retail telecommunications services will
16 be provided;

17 (c) Evidence relating to the unserved nature of the community in
18 which retail telecommunications services will be provided;

19 (d) Expected costs of providing retail telecommunications
20 services to customers to be served by the public utility district;

21 (e) Evidence that proposed telecommunications infrastructure will
22 be capable of scaling to greater download and upload speeds to meet
23 state broadband goals under RCW 43.330.536;

24 (f) Sources of funding for the project that will supplement any
25 grant or loan awards; and

26 (g) A strategic plan to maintain long-term operation of the
27 infrastructure, and the expected installation charges and monthly
28 costs for end users.

29 (2) The state broadband office must post a review of the proposed
30 project on their website.

31 (3) For the purposes of this section, "unserved" means an area of
32 Washington in which households and businesses lack access to
33 broadband service at a minimum 100 megabits per second download speed
34 and at a minimum 20 megabits per second upload speed.

35 **Sec. 4.** RCW 54.16.425 and 2018 c 186 s 3 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

37 (1) Property owned by a public utility district that is exempt
38 from property tax under RCW 84.36.010 is subject to an annual payment

1 in lieu of property taxes if the property consists of a broadband
2 (~~((network))~~) infrastructure used in providing retail (~~((internet~~
3 ~~service))~~) telecommunications services.

4 (2)(a) The amount of the payment must be determined jointly and
5 in good faith negotiation between the public utility district that
6 owns the property and the county or counties in which the property is
7 located.

8 (b) The amount agreed upon may not exceed the property tax amount
9 that would be owed on the property comprising the broadband
10 (~~((network))~~) infrastructure used in providing retail (~~((internet~~
11 ~~service))~~) telecommunications services as calculated by the department
12 of revenue. The public utility district must provide information
13 necessary for the department of revenue to make the required
14 valuation under this subsection. The department of revenue must
15 provide the amount of property tax that would be owed on the property
16 to the county or counties in which the broadband (~~((network))~~)
17 infrastructure is located on an annual basis.

18 (c) If the public utility district and a county cannot agree on
19 the amount of the payment in lieu of taxes, either party may invoke
20 binding arbitration by providing written notice to the other party.
21 In the event that the amount of payment in lieu of taxes is submitted
22 to binding arbitration, the arbitrators must consider the government
23 services available to the public utility district's broadband
24 (~~((network))~~) infrastructure used in providing retail (~~((internet~~
25 ~~service))~~) telecommunications services. The public utility district
26 and county must each select one arbitrator, the two of whom must pick
27 a third arbitrator. Costs of the arbitration, including compensation
28 for the arbitrators' services, must be borne equally by the parties
29 participating in the arbitration.

30 (3) By April 30th of each year, a public utility district must
31 remit the annual payment to the county treasurer of each county in
32 which the public utility district's broadband (~~((network))~~)
33 infrastructure used in providing retail (~~((internet—service))~~)
34 telecommunications services is located in a form and manner required
35 by the county treasurer.

36 (4) The county must distribute the amounts received under this
37 section to all property taxing districts, including the state, in
38 appropriate tax code areas in the same proportion as it would
39 distribute property taxes from taxable property.

(5) By December 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, the department of revenue must submit a report to the appropriate legislative committees detailing the amount of payments made under this section and the amount of property tax that would be owed on the property comprising the broadband ~~((network))~~ infrastructure used in providing retail ~~((internet service))~~ telecommunications services.

~~((6) The definitions in RCW 54.16.420 apply to this section.))~~

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 35.27 RCW to read as follows:

(1) A town may construct, purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease, license, provide, contract for, interconnect, alter, improve, repair, operate, and maintain telecommunications services or telecommunications facilities for the purpose of furnishing the town and its inhabitants with telecommunications services. The town has full authority to regulate and control the use, distribution, and price of the services.

(2)(a) Before providing telecommunications services pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, a town must examine and report to its governing body and to the state broadband office the following about the area to be served by the town:

(i) An assessment of the current availability of broadband infrastructure and its adequacy to provide high-speed internet access and other advanced telecommunications services to end users;

(ii) The location of where retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(iii) Evidence relating to the unserved nature of the community in which retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(iv) Expected costs of providing retail telecommunications services to customers to be served by the town;

(v) Evidence that proposed telecommunications infrastructure will be capable of scaling to greater download and upload speeds to meet state broadband goals under RCW 43.330.536;

(vi) Sources of funding for the project that will supplement any grant or loan awards; and

(vii) A strategic plan to maintain long-term operation of the infrastructure, and the expected installation charges and monthly costs for end users.

(b) The state broadband office must post a review of the proposed project on its website.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Telecommunications" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 80.04.010.

(b) "Unserved" means an area of Washington in which households and businesses lack access to broadband service at a minimum 100 megabits per second download speed and at a minimum 20 megabits per second upload speed.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 35.23 RCW to read as follows:

(1) A second-class city may construct, purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease, license, provide, contract for, interconnect, alter, improve, repair, operate, and maintain telecommunications services or telecommunications facilities for the purpose of furnishing the second-class city and its inhabitants with telecommunications services. The second-class city has full authority to regulate and control the use, distribution, and price of the services.

(2)(a) Before providing telecommunications services pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, a second-class city must examine and report to its governing body and to the state broadband office the following about the area to be served by the second-class city:

(i) An assessment of the current availability of broadband infrastructure and its adequacy to provide high-speed internet access and other advanced telecommunications services to end users;

(ii) The location of where retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(iii) Evidence relating to the unserved nature of the community in which retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(iv) Expected costs of providing retail telecommunications services to customers to be served by the second-class city;

(v) Evidence that proposed telecommunications infrastructure will be capable of scaling to greater download and upload speeds to meet state broadband goals under RCW 43.330.536;

(vi) Sources of funding for the project that will supplement any grant or loan awards; and

(vii) A strategic plan to maintain long-term operation of the infrastructure, and the expected installation charges and monthly costs for end users.

(b) The state broadband office must post a review of the proposed project on its website.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Telecommunications" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 80.04.010.

(b) "Unserved" means an area of Washington in which households and businesses lack access to broadband service at a minimum 100 megabits per second download speed and at a minimum 20 megabits per second upload speed.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 36.01 RCW to read as follows:

(1) A county may construct, purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease, license, provide, contract for, interconnect, alter, improve, repair, operate, and maintain telecommunications services or telecommunications facilities for the purpose of furnishing the county and its inhabitants with telecommunications services. The county has full authority to regulate and control the use, distribution, and price of the services.

(2)(a) Before providing telecommunications services pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, a county must examine and report to its governing body and to the state broadband office the following about the area to be served by the county:

(i) An assessment of the current availability of broadband infrastructure and its adequacy to provide high-speed internet access and other advanced telecommunications services to end users;

(ii) The location of where retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(iii) Evidence relating to the unserved nature of the community in which retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(iv) Expected costs of providing retail telecommunications services to customers to be served by the county;

(v) Evidence that proposed telecommunications infrastructure will be capable of scaling to greater download and upload speeds to meet state broadband goals under RCW 43.330.536;

(vi) Sources of funding for the project that will supplement any grant or loan awards; and

(vii) A strategic plan to maintain long-term operation of the infrastructure, and the expected installation charges and monthly costs for end users.

(b) The state broadband office must post a review of the proposed project on its website.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Telecommunications" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 80.04.010.

(b) "Unserved" means an area of Washington in which households and businesses lack access to broadband service at a minimum 100 megabits per second download speed and at a minimum 20 megabits per second upload speed.

Sec. 8. RCW 53.08.005 and 2018 c 169 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Commission" means the Washington utilities and transportation commission.

(2) "Retail telecommunications services" means the sale, lease, license, or indivisible right of use of telecommunications services or telecommunications facilities directly to end users.

(3) "Telecommunications" has the same meaning as contained in RCW 80.04.010.

~~((3))~~ (4) "Telecommunications facilities" means lines, conduits, ducts, poles, wires, cables, crossarms, receivers, transmitters, instruments, machines, appliances, instrumentalities and all devices, real estate, easements, apparatus, property, and routes used, operated, owned, or controlled by any entity to facilitate the provision of telecommunications services.

~~((4))~~ (5) "Wholesale telecommunications services" means the provision of telecommunications services or telecommunications facilities for resale ~~((by))~~ to an entity authorized to provide telecommunications services ~~((to the general public and internet service providers))~~. Wholesale telecommunications services includes the provision of unlit or dark optical fiber for resale, but not the provision of lit optical fiber.

Sec. 9. RCW 53.08.370 and 2019 c 365 s 10 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) A port district in existence on June 8, 2000, may construct, purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease, license, handle, provide, add to, contract for, interconnect, alter, improve, repair, operate,

1 and maintain any telecommunications facilities within or without the
2 district's limits for the following purposes:

3 (a) For the district's own use; (~~and~~)

4 (b) For the provision of wholesale telecommunications services
5 within or without the district's limits(~~((. Nothing in this subsection~~
6 ~~shall be construed to authorize port districts to provide~~
7 ~~telecommunications services to end users))~~); or

8 (c) For the provision of retail telecommunications services as
9 authorized by this section.

10 (2) Except as provided in subsection (~~((9))~~) (8) of this section,
11 a port district providing wholesale or retail telecommunications
12 services under this section shall ensure that rates, terms, and
13 conditions for such services are not unduly or unreasonably
14 discriminatory or preferential. Rates, terms, and conditions are
15 discriminatory or preferential when a port district offering such
16 rates, terms, and conditions to an entity for wholesale or retail
17 telecommunications services does not offer substantially similar
18 rates, terms, and conditions to all other entities seeking
19 substantially similar services.

20 (3) When a port district establishes a separate utility function
21 for the provision of wholesale or retail telecommunications services,
22 it shall account for any and all revenues and expenditures related to
23 its wholesale or retail telecommunications facilities and services
24 separately from revenues and expenditures related to its internal
25 telecommunications operations. Any revenues received from the
26 provision of wholesale or retail telecommunications services must be
27 dedicated to the utility function that includes the provision of
28 wholesale or retail telecommunications services for costs incurred to
29 build and maintain the telecommunications facilities until such time
30 as any bonds or other financing instruments executed after June 8,
31 2000, and used to finance the telecommunications facilities are
32 discharged or retired.

33 (4) When a port district establishes a separate utility function
34 for the provision of wholesale or retail telecommunications services,
35 all telecommunications services rendered by the separate function to
36 the district for the district's internal telecommunications needs
37 shall be charged at its true and full value. A port district may not
38 charge its nontelecommunications operations rates that are
39 preferential or discriminatory compared to those it charges entities
40 purchasing wholesale or retail telecommunications services.

1 (5) A port district shall not exercise powers of eminent domain
2 to acquire telecommunications facilities or contractual rights held
3 by any other person or entity to telecommunications facilities.

4 (6) Except as otherwise specifically provided, a port district
5 may exercise any of the powers granted to it under this title and
6 other applicable laws in carrying out the powers authorized under
7 this section. Nothing in chapter 81, Laws of 2000 limits any existing
8 authority of a port district under this title.

9 ~~((A port district that has not exercised the authorities
10 provided in this section prior to June 7, 2018, must develop a
11 business case plan before exercising the authorities provided in this
12 section. The port district must procure an independent qualified
13 consultant to review the business case plan, including the use of
14 public funds in the provision of wholesale telecommunications
15 services. Any recommendations or adjustments to the business case
16 plan made during third-party review must be received and either
17 rejected or accepted by the port commission in an open meeting.~~

18 ~~((8))~~ A port district with telecommunications facilities for use
19 in the provision of wholesale or retail telecommunications in
20 accordance with subsection (1) ~~((b))~~ of this section may be subject
21 to local leasehold excise taxes under RCW 82.29A.040.

22 ~~((9))~~ (8)(a) A port district under this section may select a
23 telecommunications company to operate all or a portion of the port
24 district's telecommunications facilities.

25 (b) For the purposes of this section "telecommunications company"
26 means any for-profit entity owned by investors that sells
27 telecommunications services to end users.

28 (c) Nothing in this subsection ~~((9))~~ (8) is intended to limit
29 or otherwise restrict any other authority provided by law.

30 (9) A port district may provide retail telecommunications
31 services within or without the district's limits.

32 NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. A new section is added to chapter 53.08
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 (1) Before providing retail telecommunications services, a port
35 district must report to its governing body and to the state broadband
36 office the following about the area to be served by the port
37 district:

1 (a) An assessment of the current availability of broadband
2 infrastructure and its adequacy to provide high-speed internet access
3 and other advanced telecommunications services to end users;

4 (b) The location of where retail telecommunications services will
5 be provided;

6 (c) Evidence relating to the unserved nature of the community in
7 which retail telecommunications services will be provided;

8 (d) Expected costs of providing retail telecommunications
9 services to customers to be served by the port district;

10 (e) Evidence that proposed telecommunications infrastructure will
11 be capable of scaling to greater download and upload speeds to meet
12 state broadband goals under RCW 43.330.536;

13 (f) Sources of funding for the project that will supplement any
14 grant or loan awards; and

15 (g) A strategic plan to maintain long-term operation of the
16 infrastructure, and the expected installation charges and monthly
17 costs for end users.

18 (2) The state broadband office must post a review of the proposed
19 project on their website.

20 (3) For the purposes of this section, "unserved" means an area of
21 Washington in which households and businesses lack access to
22 broadband service at a minimum 100 megabits per second download speed
23 and at a minimum 20 megabits per second upload speed.

24 **Sec. 11.** RCW 43.155.070 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 10 s 9 are each
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (1) To qualify for financial assistance under this chapter the
27 board must determine that a local government meets all of the
28 following conditions:

29 (a) The city or county must be imposing a tax under chapter 82.46
30 RCW at a rate of at least one-quarter of one percent;

31 (b) The local government must have developed a capital facility
32 plan; and

33 (c) The local government must be using all local revenue sources
34 which are reasonably available for funding public works, taking into
35 consideration local employment and economic factors.

36 (2) Except where necessary to address a public health need or
37 substantial environmental degradation, or increase access to
38 broadband, a county, city, or town planning under RCW 36.70A.040 may
39 not receive financial assistance under this chapter unless it has

1 adopted a comprehensive plan, including a capital facilities plan
2 element, and development regulations as required by RCW 36.70A.040.
3 This subsection does not require any county, city, or town planning
4 under RCW 36.70A.040 to adopt a comprehensive plan or development
5 regulations before requesting or receiving financial assistance under
6 this chapter if such request is made before the expiration of the
7 time periods specified in RCW 36.70A.040. A county, city, or town
8 planning under RCW 36.70A.040 that has not adopted a comprehensive
9 plan and development regulations within the time periods specified in
10 RCW 36.70A.040 may apply for and receive financial assistance under
11 this chapter if the comprehensive plan and development regulations
12 are adopted as required by RCW 36.70A.040 before executing a
13 contractual agreement for financial assistance with the board.

14 (3) In considering awarding financial assistance for public
15 facilities to special districts requesting funding for a proposed
16 facility located in a county, city, or town planning under RCW
17 36.70A.040, the board must consider whether the county, city, or town
18 planning under RCW 36.70A.040 in whose planning jurisdiction the
19 proposed facility is located has adopted a comprehensive plan and
20 development regulations as required by RCW 36.70A.040.

21 (4)(a) The board must develop a process to prioritize
22 applications and funding of loans and grants for public works
23 projects submitted by local governments. The board must consider, at
24 a minimum and in any order, the following factors in prioritizing
25 projects:

26 (i) Whether the project is critical in nature and would affect
27 the health and safety of many people;

28 (ii) The extent to which the project leverages other funds;

29 (iii) The extent to which the project is ready to proceed to
30 construction;

31 (iv) Whether the project is located in an area of high
32 unemployment, compared to the average state unemployment;

33 (v) Whether the project promotes the sustainable use of resources
34 and environmental quality, as applicable;

35 (vi) Whether the project consolidates or regionalizes systems;

36 (vii) Whether the project encourages economic development through
37 mixed-use and mixed income development consistent with chapter 36.70A
38 RCW;

39 (viii) Whether the system is being well-managed in the present
40 and for long-term sustainability;

1 (ix) Achieving equitable distribution of funds by geography and
2 population;

3 (x) The extent to which the project meets the following state
4 policy objectives:

5 (A) Efficient use of state resources;

6 (B) Preservation and enhancement of health and safety;

7 (C) Abatement of pollution and protection of the environment;

8 (D) Creation of new, family-wage jobs, and avoidance of shifting
9 existing jobs from one Washington state community to another;

10 (E) Fostering economic development consistent with chapter 36.70A
11 RCW;

12 (F) Efficiency in delivery of goods and services and
13 transportation; and

14 (G) Reduction of the overall cost of public infrastructure;

15 (xi) Whether the applicant sought or is seeking funding for the
16 project from other sources; and

17 (xii) Other criteria that the board considers necessary to
18 achieve the purposes of this chapter.

19 (b) Before September 1, 2018, and each year thereafter, the board
20 must develop and submit a report regarding the construction loans and
21 grants to the office of financial management and appropriate fiscal
22 committees of the senate and house of representatives. The report
23 must include:

24 (i) The total number of applications and amount of funding
25 requested for public works projects;

26 (ii) A list and description of projects approved in the preceding
27 fiscal year with project scores against the board's prioritization
28 criteria;

29 (iii) The total amount of loan and grants disbursements made from
30 the public works assistance account in the preceding fiscal year;

31 (iv) The total amount of loan repayments in the preceding fiscal
32 year for outstanding loans from the public works assistance account;

33 (v) The total amount of loan repayments due for outstanding loans
34 for each fiscal year over the following ten-year period; and

35 (vi) The total amount of funds obligated and timing of when the
36 funds were obligated in the preceding fiscal year.

37 (c) The maximum amount of funding that the board may provide for
38 any jurisdiction is ten million dollars per biennium.

39 (5) Existing debt or financial obligations of local governments
40 may not be refinanced under this chapter. Each local government

1 applicant must provide documentation of attempts to secure additional
2 local or other sources of funding for each public works project for
3 which financial assistance is sought under this chapter.

4 (6) Before September 1st of each year, the board must develop and
5 submit to the appropriate fiscal committees of the senate and house
6 of representatives a description of the loans and grants made under
7 RCW 43.155.065 and 43.155.068.

8 (7) The board may not sign contracts or otherwise financially
9 obligate funds from the public works assistance account before the
10 legislature has appropriated funds to the board for the purpose of
11 funding public works projects under this chapter.

12 (8) To qualify for loans, grants, or pledges for solid waste or
13 recycling facilities under this chapter, a city or county must
14 demonstrate that the solid waste or recycling facility is consistent
15 with and necessary to implement the comprehensive solid waste
16 management plan adopted by the city or county under chapter ((70.95))
17 70A.205 RCW.

18 (9) After January 1, 2010, any project designed to address the
19 effects of stormwater or wastewater on Puget Sound may be funded
20 under this section only if the project is not in conflict with the
21 action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW
22 90.71.310.

23 (10) For projects involving repair, replacement, or improvement
24 of a wastewater treatment plant or other public works facility for
25 which an investment grade efficiency audit is reasonably obtainable,
26 the public works board must require as a contract condition that the
27 project sponsor undertake an investment grade efficiency audit. The
28 project sponsor may finance the costs of the audit as part of its
29 public works assistance account program loan or grant.

30 (11) The board must implement policies and procedures designed to
31 maximize local government consideration of other funds to finance
32 local infrastructure.

33 (12) The relevant sections of the Washington Administrative Code
34 must be amended by January 1, 2022, in accordance with the provisions
35 of this section.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** This act may be known and cited as the
37 public broadband act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** RCW 54.16.420 (Retail internet service—
2 Definitions—Authority—Requirements) and 2018 c 186 s 1 are each
3 repealed.

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