

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Broadband Advisory Council Act is amended
5 by changing Section 20 and by adding Section 30 as follows:

6 (220 ILCS 80/20)

7 Sec. 20. Powers and duties of the Council generally.

8 (a) The Council shall:

9 (1) explore any and all ways to expand the
10 availability to end-user customers of broadband services
11 using available technologies, including, but not limited
12 to, wireline, wireless, fixed wireless, and satellite
13 applications;

14 (2) identify barriers to broadband adoption among the
15 residents and small businesses of Illinois;

16 (3) research ways to eliminate barriers to adoption
17 through measures such as: digital literacy programs;
18 programs to assist older citizens in using broadband
19 Internet access; programs to facilitate adoption by
20 disabled citizens; and programs to encourage collaborative
21 efforts among public universities, community colleges,
22 libraries, public housing, and other institutions;

23 (4) assess the availability of broadband for

1 low-income households compared to the availability of
2 broadband for other households;

3 (5) explore the potential for increased use of
4 broadband service for the purposes of education, career
5 readiness, workforce preparation, and alternative career
6 training;

7 (6) explore the potential for increased use of
8 broadband services to facilitate aging in place;

9 (7) explore ways for encouraging State and municipal
10 agencies, including public housing authorities, to expand
11 the use of broadband services for the purpose of better
12 serving the public, including audio and video streaming,
13 voice-over Internet protocol, teleconferencing, and
14 wireless networking;

15 (8) cooperate and assist in the expansion of
16 electronic instruction and distance education services;
17 ~~and~~

18 (9) as the Federal Communications Commission updates
19 the benchmark downstream data rates and upstream data
20 rates, publish the revised data rates in the Illinois
21 Register within 60 days after the federal update; and ~~and~~

22 (10) evaluate the expansion of the Illinois Century
23 Network to Illinois public schools, public libraries, and
24 State-owned correctional institutions or facilities,
25 including issuing recommendations for increasing agency
26 staffing, infrastructure development, price modeling, and

1 providing download speeds of at least one gigabyte per
2 second and upload speeds of at least one gigabyte per
3 second.

4 (b) In addition to the powers set forth elsewhere in this
5 Act, the Council is hereby granted the powers necessary to
6 carry out the purpose and intent of this Act, as enumerated in
7 this Section, including, but not limited to:

8 (1) promoting awareness of public facilities that have
9 community broadband access that can be used for distance
10 education and workforce development; and

11 (2) advising on deployment of e-government portals
12 such that all public bodies and political subdivisions
13 have websites and encourage one-stop government access and
14 that all public entities stream audio and video of all
15 public meetings.

16 (c) The Council shall also:

17 (1) monitor the broadband-based development efforts of
18 other states in areas such as business, education, aging
19 in place, and health;

20 (2) receive input provided on a voluntary basis from
21 all Illinois broadband stakeholders and advise the
22 Governor and the General Assembly on policies related to
23 broadband in Illinois, provided that no stakeholders shall
24 be required to publicly disclose competitively sensitive
25 information or information that could compromise network
26 security or undermine the efficacy of reasonable network

1 management practices, and that any such information
2 voluntarily disclosed shall be protected from public
3 disclosure; and

4 (3) serve as the broadband advocate to State agencies
5 and other State entities to communicate the broadband
6 needs of citizens and organizations that do not have
7 access to broadband service or to broadband service
8 adequate for their needs.

9 (d) The Council shall exercise its powers and authority to
10 (1) advise and make recommendations to the General Assembly
11 and the Governor on bringing broadband service to unserved and
12 underserved rural and urban areas and improving broadband
13 service statewide, (2) advise and make recommendations to the
14 General Assembly and the Governor on facilitating broadband
15 adoption by all citizens, and (3) propose statutory changes
16 that may enhance and expand broadband in the State.

17 (e) The Council shall report to the General Assembly on or
18 before January 1 of each year. The report to the General
19 Assembly shall be filed with the Clerk of the House of
20 Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate in electronic
21 form only, in the manner that the Clerk and the Secretary shall
22 direct. The report shall include the action that was taken by
23 the Council during the previous year in carrying out the
24 provisions of this Act. The Council shall also make any other
25 reports as may be required by the General Assembly or the
26 Governor.

1 (Source: P.A. 100-833, eff. 1-1-19.)

2 (220 ILCS 80/30 new)

3 Sec. 30. Illinois Century Network Study.

4 (a) The Council shall study the feasibility of connecting
5 all Illinois public schools, public libraries, and State-owned
6 correctional facilities to the Illinois Century Network by
7 January 1, 2030. The purpose and scope of the study is limited
8 to connecting all public schools, public libraries, and
9 State-owned correctional facilities to the Illinois Century
10 Network, with a goal to give all public schools, public
11 libraries, and State-owned correctional institutions or
12 facilities access to reliable, gigabit-level broadband service
13 by January 1, 2030. The Office of Broadband within the
14 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall support
15 and assist the Council in the development of the study.

16 (b) The feasibility study required under subsection (a)
17 shall explore:

18 (1) efforts among other states and units of local
19 government to connect public schools, public libraries,
20 and correctional facilities to a public broadband service;

21 (2) the current state of broadband service connection
22 for all public schools, public libraries, and State-owned
23 correctional facilities, including connection speeds, type
24 of technology, and whether the network is serviced by the
25 Illinois Century Network currently;

1 (3) models for expanding the Illinois Century Network
2 solely for the purpose of connecting all Illinois public
3 schools, public libraries, and State-owned correctional
4 facilities;

5 (4) the resources necessary to expand the Illinois
6 Century Network across the State of Illinois to all
7 Illinois public schools, public libraries, and State-owned
8 correctional facilities;

9 (5) the benefits of the Illinois Century Network in
10 Illinois public schools, public libraries, and State-owned
11 correctional facilities;

12 (6) potential sources of funding for the expansion of
13 the Illinois Century Network to Illinois public schools,
14 public libraries, and State-owned correctional facilities;

15 (7) additional staff and contracting needs that would
16 be necessary to expand the Illinois Century Network to all
17 Illinois public schools, public libraries, and State-owned
18 correctional facilities;

19 (8) options for partnering with units of local
20 government in Illinois that have taken steps toward
21 offering public broadband service for the purpose of
22 connecting all Illinois public schools, public libraries,
23 and State-owned correctional facilities to the Illinois
24 Century Network; and

25 (9) any other factors that are necessary for the
26 exploration of the feasibility of expanding the Illinois

1 Century Network to all Illinois public schools, public
2 libraries, and State-owned correctional facilities.

3 The feasibility study shall offer recommendations based on
4 the results of the study and shall offer options for the
5 expansion of the Illinois Century Network, including a
6 timeline, staffing needs, financial resources needed, and
7 suggested rates for broadband service.

8 (c) The Council shall issue a report on its findings,
9 recommendations, options for expansion, and any recommended
10 legislation to the General Assembly by January 1, 2024.

11 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
12 becoming law.