

FEB 21 2001

COMMERCE AND REGULATION

HOUSE FILE 333
BY FALCK

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the establishment of an advanced
2 telecommunications services community assistance fund.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 333

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 15.368 ADVANCED
2 TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FUND --
3 PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.
4 An advanced telecommunications services community
5 assistance fund is created in the state treasury under the
6 control of the department. The advanced telecommunications
7 services community assistance fund shall consist of moneys
8 appropriated by the general assembly and any other moneys
9 obtained or accepted by the department for deposit in the
10 fund. The proceeds of the fund are appropriated to and shall
11 be used by the department for the implementation and
12 administration of an advanced telecommunications services
13 community assistance program, designed to assist Iowa
14 communities in acquiring access to high-speed, reliable,
15 competitively priced, advanced telecommunications services.
16 Funds may be used to conduct technology assessments, develop
17 community technology plans, and, if necessary, aid in the
18 implementation of advanced telecommunications services
19 deployment. To be eligible to receive assistance from the
20 fund for advanced telecommunications services deployment, a
21 community must at a minimum have completed a comprehensive
22 information technology plan that includes components for
23 advanced telecommunications services deployment, training in
24 the use of advanced telecommunications services, and
25 integration of advanced telecommunications services into other
26 community development plans. The department shall adopt rules
27 pursuant to chapter 17A to administer the program and develop
28 allocation criteria for distribution of proceeds from the fund
29 among eligible communities. The department may require
30 communities to provide matching funds as part of their request
31 for assistance. Notwithstanding section 8.33, all moneys in
32 the advanced telecommunications services community assistance
33 fund which remain unexpended or unobligated at the close of
34 the fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund of the
35 state but shall remain available for expenditure for

1 subsequent fiscal years.

2 EXPLANATION

3 This bill provides for the creation of an advanced
4 telecommunications services community assistance fund in the
5 state treasury under the control of the department of economic
6 development. The bill provides that the fund shall consist of
7 moneys appropriated by the general assembly and any other
8 moneys obtained or accepted by the department for deposit in
9 the fund. The bill provides that the fund shall be used for
10 the implementation and administration of an advanced
11 telecommunications services community assistance program,
12 designed to assist Iowa communities in acquiring access to
13 high-speed, reliable, competitively priced, advanced
14 telecommunications services. The bill provides that funds may
15 be used to conduct technology assessments, develop community
16 technology plans, and, if necessary, aid in the implementation
17 of advanced telecommunications services deployment. The bill
18 provides that in order to receive assistance for advanced
19 telecommunications services deployment, a community must at a
20 minimum have completed a comprehensive information technology
21 plan that includes components for advanced telecommunications
22 services deployment, training in the use of advanced
23 telecommunications services, and integration of advanced
24 telecommunications services into other community development
25 plans.

26 The bill provides that the department shall adopt rules
27 pursuant to Code chapter 17A to administer the program and
28 develop allocation criteria. The bill also provides that the
29 department may require communities to provide matching funds
30 as part of their request for assistance. The bill
31 additionally provides that moneys in the advanced
32 telecommunications services community assistance fund which
33 remain unexpended or unobligated at the close of the fiscal
34 year shall not revert to the general fund of the state.

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