

Legislative Analysis



MICHIGAN HIGH-SPEED INTERNET OFFICE ACT

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4066 as introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Coleman

Committee: Energy, Communications, and Technology

Revised 5-15-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4066 would create a new act, the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office Act, to establish the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office in the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) and provide for its powers and duties. The new act would allow the office to provide, upon appropriation, grants and other financial and technical assistance related to broadband and digital infrastructure. The office also would be charged with various duties, described below, related to broadband and digital infrastructure.

As noted, the bill would create the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office in LEO. The governor would have to appoint as its director someone qualified by training and experience, and the director would establish budgeting, spending, and employment procedures for the office in accordance with the Management and Budget Act.

The office would have to do all of the following:

- Implement *modern broadband and digital infrastructure* duties assigned to it and coordinate with other state departments responsible for matters concerning modern broadband and digital infrastructure.
- Facilitate collaboration among public and private entities to encourage partnerships, regional coordination, and streamlined policies to increase modern broadband and digital infrastructure.
- Identify best practices and external resources to support modern broadband and digital infrastructure in Michigan.
- Provide capacity building and digital literacy resources to the public and entities seeking to expand *broadband service* and adoption.
- Promote and implement policies that use modern broadband and digital infrastructure to do any of the following:
 - Revitalize neighborhoods and communities.
 - Support economic development opportunities.
 - Increase hiring and retention of skilled workers that support modern broadband and digital infrastructure in Michigan.
 - Integrate the deployment of modern broadband and digital infrastructure through existing infrastructure and economic development programs.
- Collect and analyze data to accurately determine the availability of broadband service, including developing methods that accurately identify parcel level wholesale and retail broadband infrastructure availability and adoption throughout the state.
- Issue reports on the status of broadband service market competition in different regions throughout the state that distinguish between the type and quality of broadband service

provided and evaluate and provide recommendations on the wholesale and retail cost of broadband service.

- Serve as a point of contact between the public and *broadband service providers* to improve broadband service access, adoption, and transparency.

Modern broadband and digital infrastructure would mean the technology and associated equipment used to provide *broadband service*.

Broadband service would mean a service (other than a satellite service) that is capable of delivering high-speed internet access and that provides all of the following:

- Symmetrical upload and download speeds.
- Low latency.
- Reliable internet bandwidth that is capable of meeting the education, economic, and consumer needs of Michigan residents.

Broadband service provider would mean an entity that provides broadband service in Michigan.

Upon appropriation, the office could award grants or provide other financial and technical assistance to carry out the purposes of the act.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4066 would have no significant fiscal impact on the state. The bill would authorize in statute the creation of the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office within the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. However, Executive Directive 2021-2 established the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office within LEO in June 2021.¹ Any additional state costs for the office would depend on increased legislative appropriation.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

¹ <https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/news/state-orders-and-directives/2021/06/02/executive-directive-2021-2>