

**One Hundred Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2022**

**Introducer's Statement of Intent**

**LB1144**

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**Chairperson: Senator Curt Friesen**

**Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications**

**Date of Hearing: February 08, 2022**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 1144 makes two changes to the Broadband Bridge Act enacted in 2021. First, the required match for projects under the Act are reduced from 50% of project costs to 25%. Second, currently applications for proposed projects are to be filed with the Public Service Commission by July 1. This requirement is amended to provide applications shall be filed by October 1, with grant awards to be made no later than the following January 31.

Current law regarding the abandonment of service by a telecommunications carrier are made applicable to telecommunications providers. The requirement for a hearing is made optional on the part of the commission. Additionally, the obligations of this section will not be required for any telecommunications company retiring copper facilities, if the Federal Communications Commission has approved such action.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Curt Friesen**