

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

PSC 3/25/2022

LRB Number	21-6149/1	Introduction Number	SB-1097	Estimate Type	Original
Description broadband expansion grants for cities, villages, towns, and counties and telecommunications-related construction projects of cities, villages, and towns					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

2021 SB 1097 modifies the definition of eligible applicants for the Public Service Commission's Broadband Expansion Grant Program to allow political subdivisions to independently submit applications, as opposed to partnering with another entity. The bill also allows political subdivisions to use grant funds for broadband infrastructure project planning, including feasibility studies, and/or for up to fifty percent of the costs associated with hiring and employing a broadband director. The changes to the grant program's eligibility criteria and allowable costs do not have a fiscal effect on the Public Service Commission.

2021 SB 1097 also eliminates the requirement that a city, village or town prepare a report that estimates the total costs and revenues and provides a cost benefit analysis of constructing or operating a facility for providing to the public telecommunications service, video service or broadband service. Under current law, a city, village or town must prepare such a report and make it available to the public at least thirty days prior to a public hearing on a proposed resolution authorizing the local government to construct, own or operate such a facility. The elimination of this report requirement does not have a fiscal effect on the Public Service Commission but may lead to decreased costs for impacted cities, villages and/or towns.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications