

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

PSC 4/22/2022

LRB Number	21-6186/1	Introduction Number	SB-1098	Estimate Type	Original
Description requirements for broadband expansion grants, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

2021 SB 1098 defines broadband infrastructure and requires broadband expansion grant program applicants to specify in their grant applications the broadband infrastructure to be constructed. The bill also creates statutory provisions requiring grant recipients to submit progress reports to the Public Service Commission (Commission). The reports must include information on the status of construction activities, the number of connections provided and average speeds. 2021 SB 1098 also creates statutory language requiring grant recipients to reimburse the Commission if they fail to complete construction of the broadband infrastructure outlined in the grant application or if the infrastructure fails to provide service at specified speeds. The bill creates an appropriation for the receipt of these funds, which will subsequently be used to award additional broadband expansion grants. The Commission is required to promulgate rules related to the submission of progress reports and the reimbursement of grant funds for failed construction projects. Finally, 2021 SB 1098 requires a biennial Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) performance audit.

The statutory requirements outlined in this bill can be absorbed with existing staff resources. Additionally, existing staff resources will be able to promulgate rules for these areas and respond to LAB performance audit requests.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications