

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 850**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTTI**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

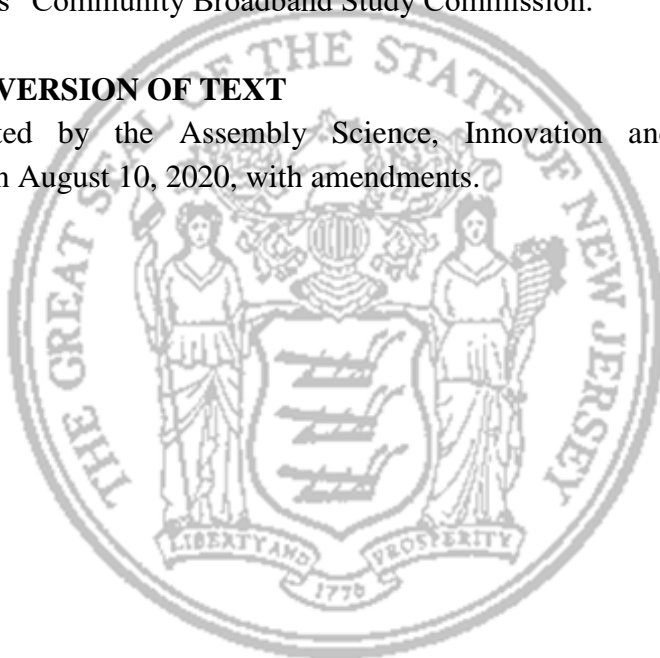
**Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywoman Pinkin, Assemblymen Holley, Danielsen, Assemblywomen Jasey, Murphy, Assemblymen Space, Wirths and Moen**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “Community Broadband Study Commission.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee on August 10, 2020, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/27/2020)**

1 AN ACT establishing the “Community Broadband Study  
2 Commission.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. There is established the “Community Broadband Study  
8 Commission.” The commission shall consist of 11 members as  
9 follows:

10 (1) the President of the Board of Public Utilities, ex officio, or  
11 the president’s designee, who shall serve as chairperson of the  
12 commission;

13 (2) the Chief Technology Officer of the Office of Information  
14 Technology, ex officio, or the officer’s designee;

15 (3) the Director of the Division of Rate Counsel, ex officio, or  
16 the director’s designee;

17 (4) <sup>1</sup>~~two members~~ one member<sup>1</sup> of the Senate to be appointed  
18 by the President of the Senate <sup>1</sup>~~],~~ which members shall not be of the  
19 same political party<sup>1</sup>;

20 (5) <sup>1</sup>~~two members~~ one member<sup>1</sup> of the General Assembly to  
21 be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly <sup>1</sup>~~],~~ which  
22 members shall not be of the same political party<sup>1</sup>;

23 (6) <sup>1</sup>~~two~~ three<sup>1</sup> public members to be appointed by the  
24 President of the Senate, who shall include an individual with  
25 expertise in community broadband networks and infrastructure and  
26 an individual with expertise in municipal and county governance or  
27 public utilities <sup>1</sup>, with one individual residing in the northern region  
28 of the State, one individual residing in the central region of the  
29 State, and one individual residing in the southern region of the  
30 State<sup>1</sup>; and

31 (7) <sup>1</sup>~~two~~ three<sup>1</sup> public members to be appointed by the  
32 Speaker of the General Assembly, who shall include at least one  
33 individual with expertise in community broadband networks and  
34 infrastructure and an individual with expertise in municipal and  
35 county governance or public utilities <sup>1</sup>, with one individual residing  
36 in the northern region of the State, one individual residing in the  
37 central region of the State, and one individual residing in the  
38 southern region of the State<sup>1</sup>.

39 b. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be  
40 filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was  
41 made.

42 c. Members of the commission shall serve without  
43 compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable  
44 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AST committee amendments adopted August 10, 2020.

1 act within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made  
2 available to the commission for its purposes.

3 d. For the purposes of this act, “community broadband  
4 network” means a local shared network consisting of a series of  
5 interlinked computers that allow persons with devices connected to  
6 a wired network within the area served to gain entry to the wider  
7 Internet through high speed Internet service connections at  
8 designated access points.

9  
10 2. The commission shall organize as soon as possible after the  
11 appointment of a majority of the commission’s members and shall  
12 meet at the call of the chairperson at the times and in the places it  
13 may deem appropriate and necessary to fulfill its duties.

14  
15 3. The commission shall evaluate the feasibility of establishing  
16 community broadband networks in this State. The commission  
17 shall be responsible for, but not be limited to, the following:

18 a. considering whether leasing or purchasing established  
19 broadband infrastructure, such as unused fiber optic cable, is more  
20 advantageous in creating a faster network;

21 b. considering whether establishing a community broadband  
22 municipal or county agency or a non-profit corporation is more  
23 appropriate to administer the community broadband network;

24 c. evaluating the different methods, including legislation and  
25 contracts with private companies, that other municipalities or  
26 counties in this country have used to implement community  
27 broadband networks;

28 d. determining the most cost effective method in which to  
29 establish community broadband networks, with a cost estimate for  
30 the local government and a rate estimate for paying customers; and

31 e. exploring all possible federal, State, and private funding  
32 sources for the establishment of community broadband networks in  
33 this State.

34  
35 4. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and  
36 avail itself of the services of the officials and employees of the  
37 State and its political subdivisions and their departments, boards,  
38 bureaus, commissions, and agencies as it may require and as may be  
39 available to it for the purposes of the commission. The Board of  
40 Public Utilities shall provide staff support services to the  
41 commission.

42  
43 5. The commission shall report its findings, conclusions, and  
44 recommendations to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of  
45 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature no later than one  
46 year following the first meeting of the commission. The  
47 commission shall expire upon the submission of the commission’s  
48 report, pursuant to this section.

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- 1       6. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
- 2 the submission by the commission of its report pursuant to section 5
- 3 of this act.