

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

**H.B. 896**  
**Apr 25, 2017**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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HOUSE BILL DRH40535-MQa-72 (03/14)

Short Title: Broadband Access to Rural Areas. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives B. Turner and Wray (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE RURAL ECONOMIC  
3 DEVELOPMENT DIVISION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO ENABLE  
4 ELIGIBLE COMMUNITIES TO CONTRACT WITH BROADBAND INTERNET  
5 SERVICE PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE INTERNET SERVICES.  
6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:  
7 **SECTION 1.(a)** Notwithstanding G.S. 143B-472.127, the Rural Economic  
8 Development Division within the Department of Commerce shall administer a program  
9 whereby grants are awarded to local government units or nonprofit corporations located in  
10 either (i) a development tier one or tier two area or (ii) a rural census tract, as defined in  
11 G.S. 143B-472.127(a)(2), in a development tier three area for the purpose of establishing or  
12 providing ongoing broadband Internet service for the benefit of the residents of the community.  
13 **SECTION 1.(b)** Notwithstanding G.S. 143C-5-2, there is appropriated from the  
14 General Fund to the Rural Economic Development Division within the Department of  
15 Commerce the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to fund the  
16 grant program provided in subsection (a) of this section.  
17 **SECTION 1.(c)** On or before April 1, 2018, the Rural Economic Development  
18 Division shall report to the chairs of the House Appropriations Committee on Agriculture and  
19 Natural and Economic Resources, the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee on  
20 Agriculture, Natural, and Economic Resources, and the Fiscal Research Division on the grant  
21 program, including total grants issued, a list of grant recipients, and any program  
22 recommendations.  
23 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2017.



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