

HB 2184

Relating to the universal service fund

HB 2184 establishes the Broadband Fund and transfers the lesser of \$5 million or the remaining unobligated moneys deposited in the universal service fund, after designation of up to \$28 million to ensure basic telephone service, from the Public Utility Commission's universal service fund to the Oregon Business Development Department for deposit in the Broadband Fund.

Moneys in the Broadband Fund are to be continuously appropriated to the Oregon Business Development Department to be used for administering and providing grants and loans to assist eligible applicants with projects for the planning and development of broadband service infrastructure. This act sunsets on January 2, 2030 and moneys in the Broadband fund will be reverted back to the Universal Service Fund. The bill directs the Oregon Business Development Department to establish by rule a program to provide grants or loans to assist eligible applicants with projects for the planning and development of broadband service infrastructure.

This bill is the companion bill to HB 2173 which provides the Oregon Business Development with limitation and position authority to establish and administer the grants and loan program.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends HB 2184 be amended by the -B13 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.