

HOUSE BILL NO. 804

INTRODUCED BY T. RUNNING WOLF, M. WEATHERWAX, J. WINDY BOY, D. HAWK, A. BUCKLEY, M. MARLER, L. BISHOP, K. SULLIVAN, K. KORTUM, T. FRANCE, E. STAFMAN, F. SMITH, M. FOX, J. GROSS, W. CURDY, J. SMALL, S. O'BRIEN, J. ELLIS, P. FLOWERS, R. LYNCH, D. HAYMAN, M. DUNWELL, E. MCCLAFFERTY, S. MORIGEAU, D. ZOLNIKOV, J. ETCHART, D. HARVEY, S. STEWART PEREGOY, J. KARLEN, S. HOWELL, Z. WIRTH, E. BOLDMAN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ADDING REVIEW REQUIREMENTS BY AN AGENCY, POLITICAL SUBDIVISION, OR TRIBAL GOVERNMENT FOR BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS; AMENDING SECTION 2-17-603, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 2-17-603, MCA, is amended to read:

"2-17-603. Government competition with private internet services providers prohibited -- exceptions -- review requirements. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b), an agency or political subdivision of the state may not directly or through another agency or political subdivision be an internet services provider.

(2) (a) An agency or political subdivision may act as an internet services provider if:

(i) no private internet services provider is available within the jurisdiction served by the agency or political subdivision; or

(ii) the agency or political subdivision provided services prior to July 1, 2001.

(b) An agency or political subdivision may act as an internet services provider when providing advanced services that are not otherwise available from a private internet services provider within the jurisdiction served by the agency or political subdivision.

(c) If a private internet services provider elects to provide internet services in a jurisdiction where an agency or political subdivision is providing internet services, the private internet services provider shall inform the agency or the political subdivision in writing at least 30 days in advance of offering internet services.

1 (3) Upon receiving notice pursuant to subsection (2)(c), the agency or political subdivision shall
2 notify its subscribers within 30 days of the intent of the private internet services provider to begin providing
3 internet services and may choose to discontinue providing internet services within 180 days of the notice.

4 (4) An agency or a political subdivision of the state and, if broadband development occurs within
5 the exterior boundaries of a federally recognized Indian reservation, a federally recognized tribal government
6 shall provide oversight of private internet service provider broadband development, including but not limited to:

7 (a) reviewing federally funded broadband projects prior to the approval of funding by the
8 department of administration;

9 (b) requesting a copy of a tribal resolution that states approval and support for any funding
10 application for broadband development for projects that reside within the exterior borders of a federally
11 recognized Indian reservation located in the state;

12 (c) encouraging effective planning and development of statutes, regulations, and policies that
13 manage the growth of municipal and tribal broadband services;

14 (d) promoting projects that provide more efficient and cost-effective delivery of broadband
15 services; and

16 (e) ensuring projects that have direct tribal implications adhere to the principles in 2-15-142.

17 ~~(4)~~(5) Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit an agency or political subdivision from:

18 (a) offering electronic government services to the general public;

19 (b) acquiring access to the internet from a private internet services provider in order to offer
20 electronic government services to the general public; or

21 (c) providing funding for broadband service infrastructure projects consistent with the provisions of
22 Chapter 401, Laws of 2021."

23
24 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a
25 copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

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27 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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