

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE  
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
OFFERED BY M . \_\_\_\_\_**

Strike page 7, line 17 and all that follows through page 13, line 6, and insert the following:

**1 SEC. 3312. DIGITAL EQUITY FOR RURAL AMERICANS.**

2 (a) AMENDMENT.—Section 905(b)(2) of the Consoli-  
3 dated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116-260)  
4 is amended by striking “\$300,000,000” and inserting  
5 “\$3,800,000,000”.

6 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after  
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Sec-  
8 retary of Commerce for Communications and Information  
9 shall establish a program within the Office of Internet  
10 Connectivity and Growth from amounts made available in  
11 the Rural Digital Equity Fund for activities that facili-  
12 tate—

- 13 (1) adoption of broadband;  
14 (2) digital equity;  
15 (3) digital inclusion; and  
16 (4) digital literacy.

1 (c) RURAL DIGITAL EQUITY FUND.—There is estab-  
2 lished in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be  
3 known as the “Rural Digital Equity Fund”.

4 (d) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts other-  
5 wise available, there is appropriated to the Rural Digital  
6 Equity Fund for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in  
7 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$3,800,000,000,  
8 to remain available until September 30, 2030, to support  
9 the program established in subsection (b).

10 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) ADOPTION OF BROADBAND.—The term  
12 “adoption of broadband” means the process by  
13 which an individual obtains daily access to the Inter-  
14 net—

15 (A) at a speed, quality, and capacity—

16 (i) that is necessary for the individual  
17 to accomplish common tasks; and

18 (ii) such that the access qualifies as  
19 an advanced telecommunications capability;

20 (B) with the digital skills that are nec-  
21 essary for the individual to participate online;

22 and

23 (C) on a—

24 (i) personal device; and

25 (ii) secure and convenient network.

1           (2) ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS CAPA-  
2           BILITY.—The term “advanced telecommunications  
3           capability” has the meaning given the term in sec-  
4           tion 706(d) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996  
5           (47 U.S.C. 1302(d)).

6           (3) DIGITAL EQUITY.—The term “digital eq-  
7           uity” means the condition in which individuals and  
8           communities have the information technology capac-  
9           ity that is needed for full participation in the society  
10          and economy of the United States.

11          (4) DIGITAL INCLUSION.—The term “digital in-  
12          clusion” means—

13                (A) the activities that are necessary to en-  
14                sure that all individuals in the United States  
15                have access to, and the use of, affordable infor-  
16                mation and communication technologies, such  
17                as—

18                       (i) reliable fixed and wireless  
19                       broadband internet service;

20                       (ii) internet-enabled devices that meet  
21                       the needs of the user; and

22                       (iii) applications and online content  
23                       designed to enable and encourage self-suf-  
24                       ficiency, participation, and collaboration;  
25                       and

1 (B) includes—

2 (i) obtaining access to digital literacy  
3 training;

4 (ii) the provision of quality technical  
5 support; and

6 (iii) obtaining basic awareness of  
7 measures to ensure online privacy and cy-  
8 bersecurity.

9 (5) DIGITAL LITERACY.—The term “digital lit-  
10 eracy” means the skills associated with using tech-  
11 nology to enable users to find, evaluate, organize,  
12 create, and communicate information.

