

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 3994
OFFERED BY MR. LANCE OF NEW JERSEY**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Critical
3 Connectivity Expands Service, Small Business Resources,
4 Opportunities, Access, and Data Based on Assessed Need
5 and Demand Act” or the “ACCESS BROADBAND Act”.

**6 SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF INTERNET
7 CONNECTIVITY AND GROWTH.**

8 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
9 ment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall establish
10 the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth within the
11 National Telecommunications and Information Adminis-
12 tration.

13 SEC. 3. DUTIES.

14 (a) OUTREACH.—The Office shall—

15 (1) connect with communities that need access
16 to high-speed internet and improved digital inclusion
17 efforts through various forms of outreach and com-
18 munication techniques;

1 (2) hold regional workshops across the country
2 to share best practices and effective strategies for
3 promoting broadband access and adoption;

4 (3) develop targeted broadband training and
5 presentations for various demographic communities
6 through various media; and

7 (4) develop and distribute publications (includ-
8 ing toolkits, primers, manuals, and white papers)
9 providing guidance, strategies, and insights to com-
10 munities as the communities develop strategies to
11 expand broadband access and adoption.

12 (b) TRACKING OF FEDERAL DOLLARS.—

13 (1) BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE.—The Of-
14 fice shall track the construction and use of and ac-
15 cess to any broadband infrastructure built using any
16 Federal support in a central database.

17 (2) ACCOUNTING MECHANISM.—The Office
18 shall develop a streamlined accounting mechanism
19 by which any agency offering a Federal broadband
20 support program and the Commission through the
21 Universal Service Fund shall provide the information
22 described in paragraph (1) in a standardized and ef-
23 ficient fashion.

24 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, and every year

1 thereafter, the Office shall make public on the
2 website of the Office and submit to the Committee
3 on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
4 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce,
5 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
6 on the following:

7 (A) A description of the work of the Office
8 for the previous year and the number of resi-
9 dents of the United States that received
10 broadband as result of Federal broadband sup-
11 port programs and the Universal Service Fund
12 program.

13 (B) A description of how many residents of
14 the United States were provided broadband by
15 which universal service mechanism or which
16 Federal broadband support program.

17 (C) An estimate of the economic impact of
18 such broadband deployment efforts on the local
19 economy, including any effect on small busi-
20 nesses or jobs.

21 **SEC. 4. STREAMLINED APPLICATIONS FOR SUPPORT.**

22 (a) AGENCY CONSULTATION.—The Office shall con-
23 sult with any agency offering a Federal broadband support
24 program to streamline and standardize the applications

1 process for financial assistance or grants for such pro-
2 gram.

3 (b) AGENCY STREAMLINING.—Any agency offering a
4 Federal broadband support program shall amend their ap-
5 plications for broadband support, to the extent practicable
6 and as necessary, to streamline and standardize applica-
7 tions for Federal broadband support programs across the
8 Government.

9 (c) SINGLE APPLICATION.—To the greatest extent
10 practicable, the Office shall seek to create one application
11 that may be submitted to apply for all, or substantially
12 all, Federal broadband support programs.

13 (d) WEBSITE REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days
14 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Office shall
15 create a central website through which potential applicants
16 can learn about and apply for support through any Fed-
17 eral broadband support program.

18 **SEC. 5. COORDINATION OF SUPPORT.**

19 The Office, any agency that offers a Federal
20 broadband support program, and the Commission through
21 the Universal Service Fund shall coordinate with the Of-
22 fice to ensure that support is being distributed in an effi-
23 cient, technology-neutral, and financially sustainable man-
24 ner, with the goal of serving the largest number of persons
25 in the United States while avoiding overbuilding and pro-

1 moting the most job and economic growth for all residents
2 of the United States.

3 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the
6 meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5,
7 United States Code.

8 (2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
9 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
10 Commerce for Communications and Information.

11 (3) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
12 means the Federal Communications Commission.

13 (4) FEDERAL BROADBAND SUPPORT PRO-
14 GRAM.—The term “Federal broadband support pro-
15 gram” does not include any Universal Service Fund
16 program and means any of the following programs
17 (or any other similar Federal program) to the extent
18 the program offers broadband internet service or
19 digital literacy for residential, commercial, commu-
20 nity providers, or academic establishments:

21 (A) The Telecommunications and Tech-
22 nology Program of the Appalachian Regional
23 Commission.

24 (B) The Telecommunications Infrastruc-
25 ture Loans and Loan Guarantees, the Rural

1 Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees,
2 the Substantially Underserved Trust Areas Pro-
3 visions, the Community Connect Grant Pro-
4 gram, and the Distance Learning and Tele-
5 medicine Grant Program of the Rural Utilities
6 Service of the Department of Agriculture.

7 (C) The Public Works and Economic Ad-
8 justment Assistance Programs and the Plan-
9 ning and Local Technical Assistance Programs
10 of the Economic Development Administration of
11 the Department of Commerce.

12 (D) The Community Development Block
13 Grants and Section 108 Loan Guarantees, the
14 Funds for Public Housing Authorities: Capital
15 Fund and Operating Fund, the Multifamily
16 Housing, the Indian Community Development
17 Block Grant Program, the Indian Housing
18 Block Grant Program, the Title VI Loan Guar-
19 antee Program, Choice Neighborhoods, the
20 HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the
21 Housing Trust Fund, and the Housing Oppor-
22 tunities for Persons with AIDS of the Depart-
23 ment of Housing and Urban Development.

1 (E) The American Job Centers of the Em-
2 ployment and Training Administration of the
3 Department of Labor.

4 (F) The Native American Library Services
5 Basic Grants, the Native American Library
6 Services Enhancement Grants, the Native Ha-
7 waiian Library Services Grants, the Laura
8 Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, and the
9 National Leadership Grants for Libraries.

10 (5) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Of-
11 fice of Internet Connectivity and Growth established
12 pursuant to section 2.

13 (6) UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND PROGRAM.—The
14 term “Universal Service Fund program” means any
15 program authorized under section 254 of the Com-
16 munications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) to help de-
17 ploy broadband.

18 (7) UNIVERSAL SERVICE MECHANISM.—The
19 term “universal service mechanism” means any
20 funding stream provided by a Universal Service
21 Fund program to support broadband access.

