

Information Technology

See full summary documents for additional detail

Completing Access to Broadband Program Changes – Require ICE Cooperation & Budget Adjustments.

Ratified (H10), Sec. 10.1

Section 10.1 of House Bill 10 would make certain changes to the Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) Program, which include:

- Directing the Department of Information Technology (DIT) to utilize up to \$190 million of funds appropriated to the CAB Program, to provide the county project cost responsibility for the 37 counties that had committed, as of May 1, 2024, to participate in the CAB Program and provide the county's cost share match.
- Requiring broadband service providers selected for a project under the CAB Program to provide at least 30% of the total estimated project cost.
- Eliminating the requirement that county governments provide at least 35% of the total estimated project costs.
- Eliminating the requirement that county governments provide DIT its portion of total estimated project costs upon executing an agreement with a broadband service provider.

House Bill 10 was ratified by the General Assembly on September 11, 2024, and vetoed by the Governor on September 20, 2024.

BEAD Deployment – Require ICE Cooperation & Budget Adjustments.

Ratified (H10), Sec. 10.2

Section 10.2 of House Bill 10 would make various changes to the laws that relate to broadband deployment and the Department of Information Technology (DIT), which include:

- Establishing the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Fund (GREAT 3.0 Fund), as a special revenue fund in DIT, to pay for infrastructure costs of projects designed to extend broadband service to unserved and underserved areas and to community anchor institutions.
- Directing the Broadband Infrastructure Office in DIT to implement a competitive subgrantee selection process in conformance with the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58).
- Requiring DIT to submit annual and periodic reports concerning the implementation of the GREAT 3.0 Program to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology and the Fiscal Research Division.
- Appropriating to DIT up to \$23 million in federal funds received for digital literacy from the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program under the Infrastructure Investment and

Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58), to be used in accordance with the North Carolina Digital Equity Plan.

- Eliminating the sunset provision for the Broadband Pole Replacement Program, which is set to expire on December 31, 2024.

House Bill 10 was ratified by the General Assembly on September 11, 2024, and vetoed by the Governor on September 20, 2024.

Human Trafficking Changes.

SL 2024-26 (H971)

S.L. 2024-26 does the following:

- Directs the Department of Labor to develop human trafficking awareness training.
- Requires certain employees and third-party contractors of lodging establishments and vacation rentals to complete human trafficking awareness training.
- Increases the penalty for a first offense of soliciting another for prostitution.
- Allows victims and alleged victims of human trafficking crimes to move for victim confidentiality in criminal proceedings.
- Requires any person initiating a child custody proceeding to disclose certain criminal convictions and history of child custody proceedings.
- Generally prohibits viewing of pornography by employees on government networks and devices, including those of public agencies, the judicial branch, and the legislative branch.
- Directs the Division of Social Services, Department of Health and Human Services, to expand, further develop, and implement human trafficking awareness trainings.
- Provides Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Automated Data Services (CJLEADS) access to campus police.
- Establishes that documentation compiled by the Housing Finance Agency for the purposes of financing housing for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking are not public records.
- Modifies the definition of victim in the Crime Victim's Compensation Act.

This act has various effective dates. Please see the full summary for more detail.

Require Disclaimer on Local Government Geographic Information System (GIS) Tools – North Carolina Farm Act of 2024.

SL 2024-32 (S355), Sec. 13

Section 13 of S.L. 2024-32 requires counties and cities that offer a geographic information system (GIS) tool to the public to provide a disclaimer notifying the user that the data offered by the tool is provided without warranty and that the user should consult public primary information sources, such as recorded deeds and plats, to verify the accuracy of the data provided. The disclaimer must be displayed prominently on a splash screen or interstitial webpage that the user must affirmatively acknowledge before accessing the tool.

This section becomes effective January 1, 2025.