



*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*  
**STATE and LOCAL  
 FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 12-0157  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Schwartz  
 Rep. Coram

**Date:** February 6, 2012  
**Bill Status:** Senate Agriculture  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Alex Schatz (303-866-4375)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE BROADBAND INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN NONCOMPETITIVE RURAL AREAS.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2012-2013</b>	<b>FY 2013-2014</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	See State Expenditures section.	
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2012-2013:</b> None required.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> See Local Government Impact section.		

**Summary of Legislation**

No later than January 1, 2013, this bill requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to identify areas of the state where access to broadband services (e.g., high-speed internet) is noncompetitive or where local customers are unserved or underserved. The PUC may organize an advisory panel to assist with mapping, market analysis, and developing recommendations. Any broadband access plan developed must be consistent with the Connect America Fund administered by the Federal Communications Commission.

The PUC is authorized to access the High Cost Administration Fund to develop a plan for support mechanisms for broadband access in all areas of the state.

**State Expenditures**

The PUC and its staff within the Department of Regulatory Agencies, as the lead agency under the bill, will experience an increase in its workload to collect the necessary data and make recommendations. The PUC will use federal Connect America resources and other existing resources for this work, and no further appropriations are required.

The OIT also will experience increased workload to assist in the mapping of unserved and underserved markets and other analysis of broadband access with the PUC. These OIT tasks can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

**Local Government Impact**

Conditioned upon the PUC forming an advisory panel with representatives from local government, a limited number of municipal, county, or special district participants may incur costs to attend meetings or produce materials for consideration by the panel.

**Departments Contacted**

Regulatory Agencies  
Public Safety

Personnel  
Transportation

Local Affairs  
Office of Information Technology