



OFFERED BY SENATOR BELL

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Replace line 97 on page 4 with the following:

- a. The community has a population of 3,000 or fewer

Replace line 152 on page 6 with the following:

(d) (1) Nothing in this act nor any rural classification adopted pursuant to Section 2 shall be construed or applied in a manner that would disqualify, render ineligible, impair, or otherwise reduce the availability of any federal or state funding, support mechanism, universal service program, grant program, tax incentive, or other financial assistance related to either of the following:

- a. Telecommunications, broadband deployment, information infrastructure, or digital connectivity.
- b. Rural health care.

(2) A rural classification adopted under Section 2 shall be interpreted to preserve eligibility for federal and state programs, including those related to telecommunications, broadband, or health care, and may not supersede or alter any definition or eligibility



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25 criteria applicable to federal programs.

26 (3) Any agency that is required to use a definition
27 of "rural" as defined under federal law or regulation may
28 disregard the tiered rural classification system
29 established under Section 2.

30 Section 5. An agency that administers any program
31 that