



## SB 1130 (Gonzalez) **Broadband for California**

### **SUMMARY**

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Senate Bill 1130 would require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to implement and expand the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) program to encourage deployment of 21<sup>st</sup> century-ready communications. Specifically, SB 1130 requires the CPUC to approve projects that provide high-capacity, future-proof broadband infrastructure to households in unserved areas and unserved high-poverty areas. In addition, SB 1130 would allow for local governments and private Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to more easily apply for grants.

This legislation would expand eligibility areas and finance higher broadband speeds while simultaneously raising the standards of approved projects to ensure they are future proofed infrastructure.

### **EXISTING LAW**

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Under existing law, the CPUC is required to develop, implement, and administer the CASF program to encourage deployment of high-quality advanced communications services to all Californians that will promote, among other things, the substantial social benefits of advanced information and communications technologies.

### **BACKGROUND/PROBLEM**

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The CASF was most recently revised by AB 1665 (E. Garcia, Chapter 851, Statutes of 2017) authorizing the CPUC to collect up to \$330 million beginning January 1, 2018 through the 2022 calendar year, in an amount not to exceed \$66 million dollars per year from customers of telecommunication providers.

The CASF has over \$300 million currently in the fund. However, this money is often not accessed by the Californians who need it the most or not accessed at all. One of the reasons is due to the difficulty and high risks associated with getting grants out to fund existing qualifying communities. Additionally, by financing low speed infrastructure, the current CASF structure is behind the curve of other major economies that rival California, who aggressively invest in fiber optic broadband networks.

The issues around access to high-speed internet have been significantly highlighted during the current COVID-19 crisis. More people than ever before need the ability to work and do school work from home.

### **SOLUTION**

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SB 1130 would require the CPUC to implement and expand CASF program to encourage deployment of 21<sup>st</sup> century-ready communications in our most needed communities. Specifically, this bill will allow the CPUC to provide grants to finance open access high-speed broadband infrastructure projects.

Further, these changes would bring California on par with international norms of government led broadband investment.

### **SUPPORT**

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Electronic Frontier Foundation (Co-sponsor)  
Common Sense Media (Co-sponsor)  
Tom Wheeler, Chairman Federal Communication Commission (November 2013-January 2017)  
City of Long Beach  
Communications Workers of America (AFL-CIO, District 9)  
Writers Guild of America West

Long Beach Unified School District  
reddit  
Long Beach City College  
Paramount Unified School District  
Alexis Ohanian, Initialized Capital  
Tech Equity Collaborative  
California IT in Education  
The Education Trust West  
Los Angeles County Office of Education  
National Association of Social Workers – CA. Chapter  
Indivisible Sacramento  
Access Now  
Media Justice  
Aspiration Tech  
California Center for Rural Policy  
RCRC  
The Greenlining Institute  
Equity Director  
CreaTV  
Access Humboldt  
Engine Advocacy  
Institute for Local Self Reliance  
Tucows  
Common Networks  
Monkey Brains  
SiFi Networks  
Contextly  
PressFriendly  
DragonFly Group  
Ubuntu Ventures  
Kubera Venture Capital  
Protocol Labs  
Onfleet  
Tostie Productions, LLC  
Unwired  
MinOps  
Manchester Community Technologies  
HiGeorge  
Pitchdeck  
ADT Security Services



## **CONTACT**

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