



**The Appropriations Committee  
Office of Consumer Counsel  
Agency Budget Presentation  
February 19, 2021**

**OCC ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING GOVERNOR'S BILL "AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO BROADBAND"**

Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-2a(c), the Office of State Broadband ("OSB") is established within and staffed by the Office of Consumer Counsel ("OCC"). A staff member of the OCC serves as Broadband Policy Coordinator. The role of the OSB is to coordinate with consumers, providers, state agencies, municipalities and non-profits to advance broadband in Connecticut. Duties of the Broadband Policy Coordinator include addressing digital inclusion and digital equity issues and have been assisting the Office of the Governor and other state agencies on broadband issues.

Duties of the OSB under "An Act Concerning Equitable Access to Broadband":

Section 2: OSB is charged with ensuring that all provisions of the Act are implemented to ensure that that the 8 guiding principles are followed and accomplished.

Section 3(a): Work with OPM and other state agencies to develop a broadband mapping plan for the State.

Section 3(c): Report jointly with OPM and DEEP to Governor on broadband mapping plan.

Section 3(d): Work with Commission for Educational Technology, and other state agencies, to conduct an analysis on broadband access and device availability for students of all ages informed by broadband mapping.

Section 4(a): Work with DEEP, and other state agencies, in establishing and applying broadband speed classifications, which are adjusted annually.

Section 4(b): Work with DEEP, and other state agencies, in reporting to Governor and E&T committee on broadband classification metrics and data sharing requirements.

Section 4(c): Work with DEEP, and other state agencies, in reporting annually to Governor and E&T committee on progress made in attaining Jan. 2027 goal of universal broadband access at 1 Gig down/200 Mbps up).

Section 6: Serve as resource to municipalities on muni gain statute revision and issues.

Sections 8, 9 and 10: Monitor provider compliance with provisions of PURA statutes concerning safety.

Section 11: Adds telecommunications, all cable and video and broadband providers to holding company statute. OCC/OSB will be actively participating in all of these proceedings.

Section 13: Requires PURA to handle broadband complaints. OSB will monitor provider compliance and coordinate joint complaints and issues with PURA staff,

Section 14: OSB will be monitoring provider compliance with consumer protection provisions.

Section 15: OSB will monitor compliance with outage restoration and credit provisions. Under subsection (c), OSB and PURA receive a report of such outages. OSB will review and follow up with PURA on additional action, if required, including petitioning for an investigation.

Section 15(d): PURA is required to conduct a resiliency review of cable, telecom and broadband, which OCC and OSB will be involved with in assisting PURA to develop a full record.

Section 16: OSB, along with PURA and others, receives notices of changes in pricing, speeds and network management practices and takes action when appropriate.

Section 17: OSB, along with other agencies, advises PURA on annual broadband report form and reviews and evaluates such annual reports for Sections 2 and 4(c) progress.

Sections 18 & 19: OSB will monitor compliance of cable/video providers to providing universal service without CIAC by Sept. 2022 and participate actively in any non-compliance proceedings before PURA or legal challenges.

Section 20: OCC and OSB will actively participate in regulatory proceedings establishing one-touch make-ready and dig-once processes

Section 22: OSB will be actively involved in monitoring compliance with non-discrimination provisions and is obligated to seek enforcement in proceedings before PURA.

Section 23: OSB will actively monitor service disconnection rules that will become applicable to broadband service.

Staff to handle additional duties of the Governor's Bill:

1. Existing staff: Staff attorney 2 to be promoted to Staff attorney 3 or reclassified to Public Utility Director of Advocacy and Regulatory Operations  
<https://www.jobapscloud.com/CT/specs/classspecdisplay.asp?ClassNumber=6667MP&R1=undefined&R3=undefined> to manage OSB and work with other state agencies as required
2. New position: Add staff attorney 2 to provide legal support to OSB
3. New position: add Research Analyst  
<https://www.jobapscloud.com/CT/specs/classspecdisplay.asp?ClassNumber=6855AR&R1=undefined&R3=undefined>