Bill List for the 88th Legislative Session
BROADBAND

Key Takeaways:

1. Despite historic state and federal efforts to increase access to high-speed internet in underserved rural and urban markets, challenges remain to ensure stable funding for the state's broadband efforts.

2. The number of Texas households with a high-speed internet subscription — a leading indicator of digital connectivity — has grown steadily over the years. It currently rests at 85%, according to the most recent Census estimates. This means there is still work to be done to ensure the remaining 1.4 million households that lack a broadband subscription can fully participate in the 21st century digital economy.

Bills To Monitor:

- **HB 9 (Ashby)** – companion bill to HJR 125 that appropriates $5 billion in broadband funding.
- **HJR 125 (Ashby)** – amends the Texas Constitution to create the Broadband Infrastructure Fund.
- **HB 3479 (Leach)** – Broadband Development Office grants to expand broadband services that facilitate communication with critical water and public safety entities.
- **HB 4383 (Lambert)** – establishes the Rural Schools and Communities Technical Assistance Center and assists with expanding broadband access in rural communities.
- **HB 4748 (Bernal)** – creation of regional broadband advisory groups.
- **SB 1238 (Nichols) and HB 2662 (Ashby)** – clean-up of HB 5 from 2021.

81% of Texans supported using $2 billion of federal funds to improve the state's broadband and emergency communications infrastructure in 2021.

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