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Bill to Expand California Broadband Deployment to Un-served Areas Approved by Assembly – SB 740

by [Christopher Simmons](#) on [Wed, 11 Sep 2013](#)



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SACRAMENTO, Calif. /California Newswire/ — Today, Calif. Senate Bill 740 by Senator Alex Padilla (D-Pacoima) was approved by the State Assembly. The legislation would authorize the California Public Utilities Commission to award broadband infrastructure grants and loans to entities that are uniquely suited to provide broadband to un-served areas of California. After a procedural concurrence vote in the State Senate, the bill will go to the Governor’s desk.

“Expanding broadband deployment to every corner of California is essential to our economy. SB 740 will ensure that we finish the state’s critical investment in our digital infrastructure so every person in the state has access to broadband,” said Senator Alex Padilla.

“High-speed Internet service is a vital aspect of modern life – everything from communicating with friends and family to access to jobs, education, health care, public safety, government services, and commerce are facilitated by broadband connections. In our 21st Century digital economy, broadband is a key component for economic opportunity for both individuals and communities,” added Padilla.



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SB 740 would expand eligibility requirements and funding for the California

Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to support broadband infrastructure in the most remote areas of the state that still lack high-speed Internet access. It would give the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) flexibility to award CASF grants to entities that are uniquely suited to provide broadband access in the last remaining un-served areas, thereby advancing state policy to ensure that all Californians are connected.

Senator Padilla authored SB 1193 in 2008, which established the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), and SB 1040 in 2010, which authorized a revolving loan program in order to ensure broadband access to every corner of California. The bills were in response to a report released in January 2008 by the California Broadband Task Force, which found that more than 1.4 million residents in the state lacked access to broadband and nearly 50 percent rely on low-speed dial-up Internet.

Since implementation of the CASF, more than \$400 million in grants and loans have been awarded from the California Emerging Technology Fund, federal broadband grants, and private investment to bring broadband to un-served areas of the state, leaving approximately 225,000 without access. SB 740 will enable these last remaining un-served households to be connected to broadband.

Senator Alex Padilla, 40, graduated from MIT with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He currently serves on the Board of MIT and is President of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. He is Chair of the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee and represents the more than 1,100,000 residents of the 20th State Senate District in Los Angeles.

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About Christopher Simmons

Christopher Laird Simmons has been a creative artist, marketing specialist, working journalist and PR pro for more than 25 years (he started as a teenager). He founded Neotrope (formerly Mindset) in 1983, and has written widely for numerous national magazines, and is frequently interviewed by same. He is a member of the PRSA and ASCAP and resides in Los Angeles County, California. He is the Executive Editor, and Publisher, at CaliforniaNewswire.com.

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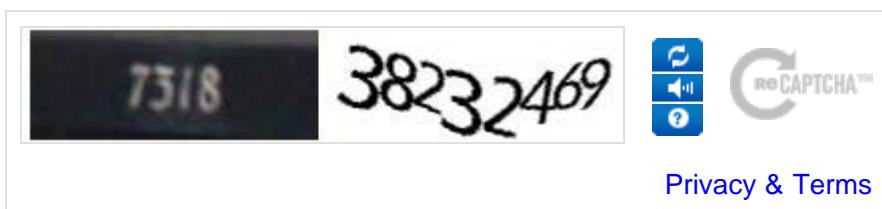
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