

Vinehout, Vruwink Introduce “Moving Broadband Forward” Bills

Written by Wisconsin Senate Democrats, Beau Stafford
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Package of four bills provide \$100 million a year in grants for broadband expansion for the next two years.

MADISON – State Sen. **Kathleen Vinehout** (D-Alma) and State Rep. **Don Vruwink** (D-Milton) introduced their “Moving Broadband Forward” bills on Wednesday.

The package of four bills provide \$100 million a year in grants for broadband expansion for the next two years. The legislation also removes costly and time-consuming roadblocks when municipalities want to start their own broadband utilities.

Under the bill, municipalities and the state Department of Transportation would be allowed to install empty conduit lines for future fiber optics as part of road and sidewalk projects. This eliminates the need to dig trenches a second time. The “dig-once” policy could save up to ninety percent of the cost of installing future fiber optics.

Also, the bills require that for a service to be called or advertised as “Broadband” it must consistently allow users to download at 25 Mbps (megabytes per second) and upload at 3 Mbps.

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