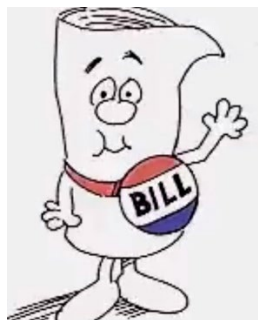




Leadership North Carolina Class XXIX  
“Legislator for An Hour” Mock Legislative Session

**BRIEFING PACKET**

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE BILL 947  
NOVEMBER 3, 2021



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## Homework and Resources

To make the most of the Legislator for an Hour simulation, complete the following before Wednesday, November 3:

- Review this full briefing packet, including the simulation instructions, the links to the bill summary and bill text (below), and the script.
- Be familiar with your caucus assignment, download the appropriate Zoom background (see next page), and be ready to change your background on Wednesday afternoon.
- If you are assigned a speaking or an ad lib role, review your lines or placement in the script.
- If you do not have an assigned role, feel free to think about what arguments you might want to make or what questions you might ask during the unscripted portion at the end of the simulation.

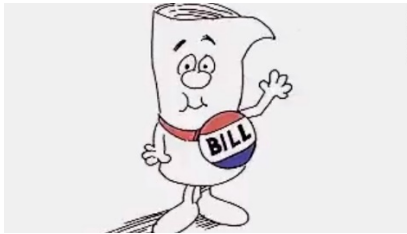
### HB 947: Summary

The summary of HB 947 can be found through [this link](#).

### HB 947: Full Text

The full text of HB 947 can be found through [this link](#).

## How a Bill Becomes a Law



[Lessons from Schoolhouse Rock](#)

[How an Idea Becomes a Law in NC](#)

## Websites

As time and interest permit, explore these supplementary resources.

- [North Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Office](#)
- [NC OneMap: North Carolina Broadband](#)
- [CarolinaLink: North Carolina Broadband Cooperative Coalition](#)
- [BroadbandUSA: National Telecommunications and Information Administration](#)
- [PEW Charitable Trusts Broadband Access Initiative](#)
- [Federal Communications Commission](#)
- [National Digital Inclusion Alliance](#)
- [Benton Institute for Broadband and Society](#)

## Virtual Backgrounds for Zoom

Prior to session, please download the appropriate image through the links below and save it in your Zoom account (but don't use it until you're invited to). Instructions for changing your background can be found [here](#). At the start of the simulation segment on Wednesday you'll be invited to change your background and rename yourself for the exercise. Your name should take the following format: "Rep. Henderson (Maj)" or "Rep. Tartt (Min)." Be sure to use the background and the designation appropriate to your caucus assignment (below).

- [Virtual Zoom Background—Minority Caucus](#)
- [Virtual Zoom Background—Majority Caucus](#)

## Class Caucus Assignments

### Majority Caucus

1. Tinu Akintola Diver
2. Jennifer Allen
3. Manju Bhat
4. Jon Biggs
5. Chris Brandenburg
6. Beckie Brooks
7. Kathryn Bruner
8. Amanda Bryant
9. Pierre Bynum
10. Brian Denisar\*
11. Timothy Downs
12. Dean Drescher\*
13. Phil Feagan
14. Kate Glaze
15. Mat Hayes
16. Shakira Henderson\*
17. Reva Holland
18. Elayne Jones
19. DeWarren Langley
20. Erin Lynch
21. Howard Manning
22. Danika Mills
23. Ryan Minto\*\*
24. Kirk Montgomery\*
25. Deepa Naik
26. Amy Policastro Schroeder\*
27. Irvine Sloan
28. Sharon Smith
29. Diamond Staton-Williams\*
30. Ryan Urquhart
31. Edna Wallace
32. John White

### Minority Caucus

1. Amanda Balwah\*
2. Kevin Baxter\*\*
3. Wanda Coley
4. Samantha DeLoache\*
5. Alex Fagg
6. Michelle Fortune
7. April Harley
8. Brian Heslin
9. Chantal Howard
10. PJ Klein\*
11. Felicia Kline
12. Cooper Linton
13. Julian Macaulay
14. Jeff Marko
15. Dionne McLean\*
16. Jim Musilek
17. Stephanie Norander\*
18. Rachel Page
19. Sarah Prencipe\*
20. Denika Seymour\*
21. Jeff Smith
22. John Tartt
23. Pete VanGraafeiland
24. Kelly Webb

\*Scripted speaking role.

\*\*To help launch unscripted content. All class members are encouraged to join in the debate and discussion following the scripted portions of the exercise.

## “Legislator for an Hour” Instructions

**A NOTE FROM THE PLANNING TEAM:** Welcome to your role as a member of the North Carolina General Assembly! During this exercise you will get to debate and vote on a piece of legislation following the protocols of the North Carolina House of Representatives. Accommodations have been made to adapt to the virtual world—the differences between simulation and reality will be explained during the exercise.

Here are a few things you really need to know:

- There's a lot of text in this briefing packet and the bill and bill summary. Don't sweat the details! The simulation is meant to be instructive but also engaging and entertaining.
- The bill text is long and the language arcane. Be sure to at least skim the bill through the link provided, but don't worry if you don't understand it all.
- The simulation debate will focus on the bill and on one amendment (included in this packet).
- If you don't have an assigned speaking role, please join in when the floor is opened for discussion.
- Enjoy this unique experience!

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to House Principal Clerk James White and his team for their help guiding this session in the virtual environment for Class XXVIII and to his predecessor in that role, Denise Weeks, for serving as our Speaker of the House for this session. We also owe a thank you to Denise and to the earlier LNC classes that helped develop previous versions of these materials, which have served as a model for this year's simulation.

**GOAL:** To simulate a legislative bill debate and vote so that you gain a sense of the legislative process and the balancing of policy issues that occurs when legislation is considered and debated.

**YOUR ROLE:** To act as members of the North Carolina General Assembly – pretend you are the House member representing your district. Some members of your class have been prepped with talking points to start the activity. These participants are playing predefined, fictional roles that don't necessarily align with their personal views. We hope many more of you will join in the impromptu discussion and role-playing that will follow the scripted portion of the exercise.

Be sure you know your caucus assignment. Caucus assignments were made randomly—you may find yourself in a caucus that supports a position counter to your actual views. This exercise is intended to be an educational, fun, and lighthearted experience. Approach the exercise from your assigned role, not from your actual position. With that in mind, you are under no obligation to vote with your assigned caucus.

**PROCESS:** This exercise will simulate the legislative process. Participants will be debating HB 947, “The Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (G.R.E.A.T.) Broadband Expansion Act. HB 947 is an actual piece of legislation, but the amendment proposed during the simulation is fictional.

We will go (virtually) onto the House floor to debate and take a vote on the bill. Retired House Principal Clerk Denise Weeks will guide the simulation, stopping to explain and correct any violations of procedure or protocol. The general details of this process will be familiar to you from watching movies or television. Only legislators (you, the members of Class XXIX) will have opportunities to speak, and the discussion will take a formal tone that follows the parliamentary rules of the House.

**MATERIALS and PROCEDURES:** Review the materials in this packet and follow the links provided to familiarize yourself with the legislation that will be discussed. Be sure you know your caucus assignment.

**RULES:** During the mock session, House Rules will be used for all parliamentary procedures. The following guidelines incorporate accommodations for the virtual environment. For this simulation, the Clerk role will be played by Brian Etheridge. The Presiding Officer (Speaker) will be played by former House Principal Clerk Denise Weeks.

1. Participants should change their Zoom names to the format “Rep. Lastname (caucus assignment).” For example, “Rep. Turner (Min).”
2. All participants must begin the exercise with cameras on and microphones muted.
3. Outside of participating in scripted content, all participants must remain muted until formally recognized. Participants should refrain from using the chat feature for any purpose other than seeking recognition to speak as outlined below.
4. Participants who were assigned speaking roles in advance should follow the script. When it is their turn to speak, they should unmute themselves, deliver their lines, and return to muted status. Those with scripted roles do NOT need to follow the process outlined below for seeking recognition from the Clerk. They may simply unmute and proceed with their scripted content when appropriate in the flow of the exercise.
5. Participation by class members who were not assigned scripted roles is strongly encouraged once the scripted content is completed. To seek recognition outside of scripted content, participants should direct a private chat message to the Clerk (Brian Etheridge) indicating they would like to be recognized for a purpose and stating that purpose. For example, “Madame Speaker, Representative Seymour seeks recognition to ask the bill sponsor a question.” Or “Madame Speaker, Representative Naik seeks recognition to debate the bill.”
6. Once a request for recognition is received, the Clerk will notify the Presiding Officer of the request and then proceed to recognize the member for debate or motion if the request for recognition is in order. At that point, the class member should unmute, speak, and return to mute. If you are recognized to speak, limit your question or comments to two minutes.
7. This process will be the same for asking questions of fellow representatives. A member who has a question may send a chat message to the Clerk stating that they wish to see if a specific representative (classmate) will yield for a question. At the appropriate time the Presiding Officer can see if that individual yields. If they yield, the Presiding Officer will recognize the requesting member to propound one question. Both members should be unmuted at this time and muted immediately thereafter. Any follow-up questions should follow the same “chat the Clerk” process.
8. All questions and comments throughout the exercise shall be addressed to the Presiding Officer (Denise Weeks) through a private chat message sent to the Clerk (Brian Etheridge). Requests for recognition will be granted in the order in which they are received by the Clerk, as time permits.
9. A window for debrief and discussion will be protected at the end of the simulation.

**MOCK BILL DEBATE AND VOTING PROCESS:**

1. The Presiding Officer of the House will convene the House to consider House Bill 947.
2. The House sponsor will be recognized to present the bill.
3. Open discussion and debate on the full bill will be invited at the end of the scripted content, as time permits.
4. Voting will be conducted using the “Reactions” feature in Zoom. When instructed to vote, click on the Zoom reactions tab. Use the green check to vote “Aye” and the red X to vote “Nay.”



**HOUSE CALENDAR**  
**200<sup>th</sup> Legislative Day**  
**Wednesday, November 3, 2021**  
**House Convenes at 2:45 P.M.**

**Denise Weeks, Presiding Officer**

**CALENDAR**

**PUBLIC BILLS**

**SECOND AND THIRD READINGS**

**HB 947** Committee Substitute No. 2 – Henderson  
**G.R.E.A.T. ACT**  
(Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House) (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)

Bills eligible to be filed in 2021 with no deadlines:

- (1) Redistricting bills for House, Senate, Congress, or local entities.
- (2) Ratification of amendments to the Constitution of the United States.
- (3) Adjournment resolutions.
- (4) Bills introduced on the report of the House Committees on Appropriations, Finance, or Rules.

Denise Weeks  
Principal Clerk (Ret.)

## Role Players

Denise Weeks - Speaker of the House and Presiding Officer

Brian Etheridge - Clerk to the House of Representatives

Rep. Shakira Henderson - House Bill Sponsor. This member is in the majority party and supports the bill. She has a major role in explaining the bill and managing the bill through the House floor process.

Rep. Dean Drescher - This member is in the majority party and supports the bill.

Rep. PJ Klein - This member is in the minority party and supports the amendment and the bill.

Rep. Stephanie Norander - This member is in the minority party and supports the bill. She pushes the limits of House protocol to share her position in the guise of a question.

Rep. Kirk Montgomery - This member is in the majority and supports the bill. He believes the legislation should be expanded to support equipment purchases as well.

Rep. Brian Denisar - This member is in the majority party but opposes the bill as written. He has a telecommunications background and wants to expand the entities that can be funded through the bill.

Rep. Samantha DeLoache - This member is in the minority party. She supports the bill if it can be significantly expanded.

Rep. Dionne McLean - This member is in the minority party. She is the author of an amendment that seeks to expand access to funding to include public providers.

Rep. Amy Policastro Schroeder - This member is in the majority party and opposes the amendment proposed by Rep. McLean.

Rep. Sarah Prencipe - This member is in the minority party and opposes the amendment.

Rep. Diamond Staton-Williams - This member is in the majority party and supports the amendment.

Rep. Denika Seymour - This member is in the minority party and wants to see the bill expanded to address food insecurity.

Rep. Amanda Balwah – This member is in the minority party. She proposes an amendment to address food insecurity but fails to follow proper protocol, so the amendment does not get considered.

Representatives Kevin Baxter and Ryan Minto will be invited to share unscripted debate on the bill after the vote on the amendment is concluded.

**Note to Class XXIX:** All members of Class XXIX are encouraged to seek recognition and engage in unscripted debate once the scripted portion is complete and as time permits. Guidelines for seeking recognition from the Clerk for unscripted debate are included at the end of the script.



## Script

SPEAKER: House Bill 947, the Clerk will read.

CLERK: Rep. Henderson, House Bill 947, a bill to be entitled, "The Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Broadband Expansion Act." The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts.

SPEAKER: Representative Henderson, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

REP. HENDERSON: To explain the bill.

SPEAKER: The member is recognized.

REP HENDERSON: Thank you Madame Speaker, members of the House. I rise today to ask you to support House Bill 947, GREAT Broadband Expansion Act. To state that this bill has had quite a journey is really an understatement. If you look at the current version of the bill before you, you will notice that it says this is the Second Edition. This version of the bill, besides having already made it through the House process, reaches the floor today having gone through our House Committee on Energy and Public Utilities, the House Finance Committee, The Judiciary Committee, and of course the Rules Committee. Not to mention there has been significant discussion about this bill outside the committee process as well. Bill sponsors as well as bill managers here in the House have been inclusive, inviting the stakeholder groups involved in these matters to add comments and make recommendations and working to seek compromise on many parts of the legislation, including some of the most controversial sections of the bill. I think you will find that the bill before you today is a solid bill and I am pleased to place it before the body for consideration.

Madame Speaker, I would like to briefly review the various sections of the bill so everyone knows what is included in this version. Obviously, it is a lengthy bill, so I will hit the highlights and of course will be happy to yield for any questions.

Members of the House, if you will please turn your attention to the bill.

The Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Program seeks to expand broadband access to all of our citizens across the 100 counties of our great state. The Act also seeks to create a means of administering the proposed program using federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

The bill focuses funds on unserved or underserved areas within our state. Unserved and underserved are defined as "a location within a county that has no broadband service or that has internet access service that does not meet the definition of broadband service."

Madame Speaker, this is a complex bill that has had a lot of attention. I and others feel that it is finally ready for discussion and approval by the House. I respectfully ask the members to vote yes on the bill and with that, Madame Speaker, I yield and would be happy to answer any questions.

SPEAKER: Representative Drescher, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

REP. DRESCHER: To debate the bill.

SPEAKER: The member is recognized to debate the bill.

REP. DRESCHER: Madame Speaker, I wasn't going to speak on this bill. But I just couldn't help myself. In my community, we have lost so many of our meaningful jobs to companies outside our county, outside

our state, and outside our country. In this day and age, all it takes is a computer to make an idea a reality. There are people all over the world profiting from small businesses they have created from a spare room and a computer. I support anything that provides increased broadband access to our underserved communities. But if my community and others like it do not also receive funding for equipment, then I don't hold out much hope for our ability to maintain what standard of living we have, much less actually compete with the market landscape.

SPEAKER: Representative Klein, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

REP. KLEIN: To debate the bill.

SPEAKER: The member is recognized to debate the bill.

REP. KLEIN: Madame Speaker, I agree with my esteemed colleague, Rep. Drescher. This is an issue of access to information, to education, to opportunities to improve literacy and health among our population. We need to address affordability and access to equipment. It doesn't matter if we have the highest speed Internet in the world if our citizens don't have devices with which to take advantage of it. We cannot move forward with this bill without addressing this critical and fundamental need. This is the only way we can improve access to educational services that will ultimately improve not only the classic three R's among our populace but also improve the mental, physical, and spiritual health of those most in need of service. We MUST make this a priority.

SPEAKER: Representative Norander, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

REP. NORANDER: To ask the Bill Sponsor a question.

SPEAKER: Does the Member yield?

REP. HENDERSON: I yield.

SPEAKER: She yields.

REP. NORANDER: Rep. Henderson, what we seem to have here is a conflation of issues. The GREAT legislation seeks to use funds already allocated to federal and state entities for the expansion of broadband to our people. While I acknowledge the challenges our state faces with regard to health and literacy and access to equipment, those points are outside the scope of this bill. I believe this bill achieves what we need it to achieve and should move forward as written.

REP. DRESCHER: Point of order, Madame Speaker.

SPEAKER: The member may state her point of order.

REP. DRESCHER: Madame Speaker, the Member was recognized to ask a question, not to debate the bill. Can we ask Rep. Norander to refrain from debating the bill at this time?

SPEAKER: The Member was recognized to ask the bill sponsor a question. Does the Member have a question? If so, the Member may proceed.

REP. NORANDER: Yes, Madame Speaker. My question is this: Are there not programs within the state and local budgets to help support those in need of equipment or internet access? Are we not actually trying

to solve a set of problems for which answers are already available? I know schools in North Carolina have laptops for children to check out and use for the entirety of the school year. Is that not true?

REP. HENDERSON: Thank you for the question, Rep. Norander. I will need to yield to my colleague Rep. Montgomery, who can best speak to your point. I think he will be able to better address your question.

SPEAKER: Representative Montgomery is recognized to answer the question.

REP. MONTGOMERY: Thank you Madame Speaker, yes, I would be happy to answer that question for Rep. Norander. While there are funds available for the less fortunate in North Carolina through various programs that already exist, and while laptops are available to school children, and while there are funds available to individuals for cell phones as necessary utilities, there are no funds currently available for the purchase of laptops and other equipment for adults in our rural economies. That being said, I agree with my colleague, Rep. Norander, that funding and providing equipment to all citizens is beyond the scope of this legislation.

SPEAKER: Representative Denisar, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

REP. DENISAR: To debate the bill.

SPEAKER: The member is recognized to debate the bill.

REP. DENISAR: Thank you Madame Speaker. As you all know, I have spent my entire professional career in telecommunications and during my time here in the House I have supported our business community as much as I can. I have lived through the ups and the downs of the state economy and have seen friends and families succeed in the good years and struggle in the hard years. After careful consideration and discussion with representatives from many of the fine municipalities across our state, I believe we need to revisit the entities available to receive funding under this bill. In many counties across our state, there is not a private provider of broadband services, and private providers refuse to provide services to many areas. This leaves many of our rural residents without access. In these cases, the local governments can step in and provide the service. But this bill does not include a provision for these entities to receive funds. While I appreciate Representative Henderson's comments and work on this bill, I think this bill falls short. It does not go far enough in expanding broadband access to some of our most needy citizens.

There are many good provisions in this bill and if they were in stand-alone bills, I would certainly vote for them. Madame Speaker, in this current form, I cannot support this bill. It simply does not go far enough to support our communities. Being from one of the counties without service from a private provider, it is critical that we use this opportunity to direct funding to public providers.

SPEAKER: Representative DeLoache, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

REP. DELOACHE: To speak to the bill.

SPEAKER: The member is recognized to speak to the bill.

REP. DELOACHE: Thank you Madame Speaker. I recognize the complexity of these issues, and I don't claim to think there is an easy answer here. However, I agree with Representative Denisar that we need to level the playing field for those lesser-served markets supported by our municipalities. We also need to consider a supplement or subsidy to go directly to those least fortunate who are also the most in need.

SPEAKER: Rep. McLean, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

REP. MCLEAN: To send forth an amendment.

SPEAKER: The member is recognized to send forth an amendment. The Clerk will read.

CLERK: Rep. McLean moves to amend the bill on page 2, line 36; page 5, line 51; and page 10, line 23.

SPEAKER: Rep. McLean is recognized to speak on the amendment.

REP. MCLEAN: Thank you Madame Speaker. Members, the amendment language is in your information packet and I would refer you to that amendment now to review during our debate on the amendment. I think this amendment may help some of the members in the chamber with their concerns about the private provider sections of the bill.

Simply, what the amendment will do is this: If a community is not served by a private provider for internet and telecommunications services, then a public entity such as a city or county would have access to funds to build their own network or enter into a public-private partnership to provide services.

So, if Yadkin County were the provider of telecommunications services for its citizens, instead of not having the benefit of the bill created for exactly those underserved individuals, Yadkin County would gain access to those funds with flexibility to determine how to get broadband access to its unserved citizens.

It is important that we address this issue and pass this amendment. We have heard from many municipalities that are stretched thin in trying to maintain the current load of services to their constituents. Without the provision offered by this amendment, I hate to think what will happen to our most rural communities and their ability to meet the increasing needs of citizens. This amendment is supported by the House sponsors of the bill. I ask you to vote yes, please vote green, on the amendment.

SPEAKER: Representative Policastro Schroeder, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

REP. POLICASTRO SCHROEDER: To speak on the amendment.

SPEAKER: The member is recognized to speak on the amendment.

REP. POLICASTRO SCHROEDER: My fellow representatives. I, too, have spoken to many municipalities, and let me tell you what I have heard. The county managers I've spoken to tell me they are having trouble trying to spend all the money that have received as part of the CARES Act and other legislation created to help our states and our citizens. We are creating the moral hazard of unintended consequences by continuing to throw money at our local governments when the most precious resource – labor – is unavailable. We can only support more spending if there are people to administer the funding and carry out its intended use. The moral hazard is the inflationary pressure the added money creates in our system, thus hurting those we mean to help as they try to feed themselves and meet basic needs. We also hurt their children with the increased debt burden placed on our federal, state, and local budgets.

If you vote YES on this amendment, you are adding to an already slippery slope. I honestly cannot even believe we are debating this in this chamber, especially an amendment offered up by the majority party.

SPEAKER: Representative Prencipe, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

REP. PRENCIPE: To debate the amendment.

SPEAKER: The member is recognized to debate the amendment.

REP. PRENCIPE: Thank you Madame Speaker. I cannot believe I am going to say this, you all know I am probably the most liberal member in this entire chamber, but I agree with Rep. Policastro Schroeder, who may be the most conservative member of this chamber. Our public entities have vast responsibilities and provide invaluable services to their citizens. Despite the obvious need of unserved communities for access to fast and reliable internet, our local and county governments are not, and should not be, in the technology business. Furthermore, the public sector should not be subsidized to compete with the private sector. We are on a very slippery slope indeed. I cannot support this amendment. Please vote against the amendment.

SPEAKER: Rep. Staton-Williams, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

REP. STATON-WILLIAMS: To debate the amendment.

SPEAKER: The member is recognized to debate the amendment.

REP. STATON-WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Speaker. Friends and colleagues—there are places in our state that are suffering. Critical opportunities are not open to those without fast, reliable connections to our modern economies. With the G.R.E.A.T. legislation and the excellent amendment on the table, we have a tremendous opportunity to level the playing field and to bring prosperity and opportunity to every part of this great state. I was born and bred in Hertford County. You will not find stronger, harder-working people anywhere in North Carolina. But we are not served by a private internet provider. We don't even have a telephone cooperative that could step in to fill this role. Without allowing our public entities access to these funds, you are leaving behind Hertford County and many other parts of our state. Do NOT deny our fine citizens access to tools and opportunity. I urge you, my trusted and respected colleagues, to vote in favor of this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER: Further discussion, further debate?

[[Denise will move straight to the vote, with opportunities for unscripted content to come at the end of the simulation.]]

If not, the question before the House is the passage of the Amendment sent forth by Rep. McLean. Those in favor of the amendment will vote Aye, those opposed will vote No. The clerk will open the vote.

SPEAKER: The clerk will lock the machine and record the vote. With \_\_\_ having voted in the affirmative and \_\_\_\_\_ in the negative, the "Inclusion of Public Providers" amendment is *adopted/fails of adoption*.

SPEAKER: Representative Seymour, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

REP. SEYMOUR: To ask the bill sponsor a question.

SPEAKER: Does the Member yield?

REP. HENDERSON: I yield.

SPEAKER: She yields.

SPEAKER: Representative Seymour is recognized to ask the bill sponsor a question.

REP. SEYMOUR: I wholeheartedly support providing broadband access, as well as the equipment needed to take advantage of it, to all of our citizens, young and old. But I see a tremendous opportunity to use this legislation to address an even more important issue. With the tremendous number of people in our state still unemployed and with so many in our state continuing to fight with food insecurity, is this bill really the best use of our resources? Could the funds earmarked to grow rural economies through access to technology be at least partially used to provide basic food security? Is food security not more important than cutting edge technology?

REP. HENDERSON: Those are good points, Rep. Seymour. I do not dispute them, but at this time, we are considering whether and how to fund critical technology access to our rural communities so that they can improve economically and better compete within the state, the region, the nation, and the world.

REP. SEYMOUR: Madame Speaker, this is very troubling to me. We are not even beyond the pandemic created by Covid-19. We need food security for those among us who have suffered the most during this difficult period of time: the servers at our restaurants, the clerks in our grocery stores, and those having to take unemployment to care for sick family members or to raise children who cannot attend school. And what of the immensity of the healthcare expenses being incurred by those without medical insurance or those with only high-deductible plans. Are we not relegating all of these groups to a state of near bankruptcy for years to come?

SPEAKER: For what purpose does Representative Balwah seek recognition?

REP. BALWAH: To offer an amendment.

SPEAKER: Rep. Balwah is recognized to send forth an amendment, the Clerk will read.

SPEAKER: Rep. Balwah, the Clerk is not in possession of your amendment.

REP. BALWAH: Madame Speaker, based on the inspired comments of my colleague, Rep. Seymour, I would like to propose an amendment to use the GREAT act to address the critical issues of food insecurity in our state.

SPEAKER: Representative Balwah, has this amendment been properly submitted in writing per House protocol?

REP. BALWAH: No ma'am, it is an important addition that has just occurred to me.

SPEAKER: Representative Balwah, without submission of the amendment in writing it cannot be considered at this time. You are out of order.

[[Denise will share some options for ways an amendment could be proposed at this stage of the process.]]

SPEAKER: Further discussion, further debate?

[[Denise will invite interaction from Reps. Baxter and Minto, who are on deck to chime in with ad lib debate on the bill per the format below. After their unscripted remarks, all class members are welcome to use the guidelines below to seek recognition from the Clerk (Brian E.) to debate the bill or ask questions

as time permits.]]

[[Content below outlines the format for Reps. Baxter and Minto to engage in unscripted debate or ask questions.]]

SPEAKER: Representative Baxter, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

REP. BAXTER: To debate the bill/to ask the bill sponsor a question, etc. *[[Content to be created by Rep. Baxter but must be limited to the full bill and not to the amendment since the vote on the amendment will already have been completed.]]*

SPEAKER: The member is recognized to . . .

REP. BAXTER: [[content to be created in the moment by Rep. Baxter]]

SPEAKER: Representative Minto, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

REP. MINTO: To debate the bill/to ask the bill sponsor a question, etc. *[[Content to be created by Rep. Minto but must be limited to the full bill and not to the amendment since the vote on the amendment will already have been completed.]]*

SPEAKER: The member is recognized to . . .

REP. MINTO: [[content to be created in the moment by Rep. Minto]]

SPEAKER: Further discussion, further debate?

[[Content below outlines the format for all class members to seek recognition to engage in unscripted debate or ask questions before voting on the bill.]]

**Note to Class XXIX:** Any class members without scripted roles may now join in on the discussion of HB 947. To speak they must seek formal recognition by sending a private Zoom chat message to Clerk Brian Etheridge. Requests for recognition should be framed in the following format.

Madame Speaker, I would like to be recognized to:

- debate the amendment
- offer a motion to (insert motion)
- to see if Rep. X will yield for a question
- call a point of order
- inquire of the chair

The Clerk will coordinate recognition of speakers with Speaker Denise Weeks as time permits.

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[[Denise will close out discussion and debate by 3:40 by and no later than 3:45 pm to complete the voting process and protect time for Q&A and debrief.]]

SPEAKER: Further discussion, further debate?

If not, the question before the House is the passage HB 947 on its second reading. Those in favor of the bill will vote Aye, those opposed will vote No. The clerk will open the vote.

[[Denise and Kelly will review voting instructions here as needed.]]

SPEAKER: The clerk will lock the machine and record the vote. With \_\_\_\_ having voted in the affirmative and \_\_\_\_\_ in the negative, HB 947 has *passed/failed*.

(If the bill passes second reading, the House will proceed to third reading which will also be taken by Zoom voting.)



Amendment



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

House Bill 947

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
(to be filled in by Principal Clerk)

Page 1 of 1

H947v2

Amends Title [NO]  
Second Edition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

Representative McLean

1 moves to amend the bill including language to read:

2

3 Strike the following language on page 2, line 36:

4 ~~Nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to grant authority for a county to own, operate, or~~  
5 ~~otherwise control broadband infrastructure contracted for under this section.~~

6

7 And insert the following:

8 In areas not adequately served by a private provider, public entities shall have access to funds to  
9 build and operate their own networks or enter into public-private partnerships to provide  
10 broadband services.

11

12 Strike the following language on page 5, line 51:

13 ~~Nothing in this subdivision shall be deemed to authorize a county to provide broadband service.~~

14

15 And insert the following:

16 In areas not adequately served by a private provider, public entities shall have access to funds to  
17 build and operate their own networks or enter into public-private partnerships to provide  
18 broadband services.

19

20 Strike the following language on page 10, line 23:

21 ~~Nothing in this subdivision shall be deemed to authorize a county to provide broadband service.~~

22

23 And insert the following:

24 In areas not adequately served by a private provider, public entities shall have access to funds to  
25 build and operate their own networks or enter into public-private partnerships to provide  
26 broadband services.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
(Amendment Sponsor)

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
(Committee Chair if House Committee Amendment)

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ FAILED \_\_\_\_\_ TABLED \_\_\_\_\_