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## **State's broadband access incentive gets wary response**

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A pledge by state leaders to help finance broadband Internet access in remote parts of Massachusetts is being met with a healthy dose of skepticism from big telecommunications companies questioning the economics of the expansion.

Gov. Deval Patrick announced last Thursday the filing of a \$25 million bond bill that will provide telecom companies a one-time financial incentive to install broadband infrastructure -- specifically wires, towers and connections -- in 33 presently unserved communities. Most of those communities are in the western part of the state.

While political leaders laud the initiative as a crucial to economic development, major Internet providers are taking a wait-and-see approach.

"We're eager to sit down with the legislature to see if there is some new way to attack (broadband in) rural areas," said Joe Zukowski, vice president of government affairs at **Verizon**.

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