

STUDY GUIDE FOR LEGISLATORS

H7333 – Broadband Oversight and Accountability Act of 2026

Submitted by:

The Foundation for Bioethics in Technology

Rhode Island | <https://bioethics.tech>

1. What This Bill Is Actually Governing

H7333 governs broadband infrastructure, including fiber, fixed wireless, cellular, and satellite systems. These systems no longer function solely as communication tools. They operate as **environmental systems** that shape electromagnetic exposure environments, data extraction regimes, and cumulative biological and neurological impacts on the population.

This places H7333 within the domain of **pollution governance**, whether the bill names it or not.

2. Why the Word *Pollution* Matters

Pollution is defined by **externalized impact**, not intent.

When infrastructure deployment alters electromagnetic environments, extracts personal and behavioral data at scale, exposes populations without meaningful consent, and lacks health impact assessment, the result is **pollution by governance omission**.

Failing to name pollution does not prevent harm.

It prevents accountability.

3. What “Oversight” Means in This Bill — and What It Does Not

The oversight described in H7333 is limited to service levels, access, and performance metrics. It does **not** include emissions monitoring, exposure thresholds, health impact assessment, cumulative environmental review, or biological safety accountability.

Oversight of systems without oversight of impacts is not public protection.

Oversight without rights becomes surveillance by default.

4. Fixed Wireless Is Not Neutral Infrastructure

H7333 explicitly retains fixed wireless within the definition of broadband. Fixed wireless infrastructure emits radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation, is often placed in close proximity to homes and schools, and operates continuously.

Yet the bill contains no requirement to assess cumulative exposure, vulnerable populations, health accommodations, or public consent. This omission converts residents into involuntary participants in an environmental experiment.

5. The Small Cell Siting Act Is the Missing Center

H7333 does not amend or meaningfully confront the Small Cell Siting Act under Title 39-32. That Act prioritizes rapid deployment, limits municipal discretion, restricts public challenge, and constrains state agencies from acting on health grounds.

By leaving this framework intact, H7333 creates the appearance of accountability while preserving the statutory structure that externalizes harm onto the public. This is a governance choice.

6. Conflict of Interest Is Structural

When the same ecosystem deploys infrastructure, defines performance metrics, controls monitoring tools, and benefits from expansion, a **structural conflict of interest** exists in enforcement. This is not an allegation of bad faith. It is an incentive problem, and incentive problems produce predictable outcomes.

Pollution oversight cannot be housed inside the same incentive structure that profits from pollution.

7. Why Health Impact Assessment Is Non-Negotiable

Health impact assessment is standard practice wherever pollution is acknowledged. Without it, harms are dismissed as anecdotal, cumulative exposure is ignored, vulnerable populations are rendered invisible, and liability is deferred rather than prevented.

If the General Assembly retains authority, it must retain authority to require health impact assessment for broadband and fixed wireless infrastructure.

8. The Question Before the Legislature

The question before Rhode Island is not whether broadband oversight is needed.
It is whether people are governed as citizens or treated as **obstacles to deployment**.

9. Core Principle

Access to essential infrastructure must not require exposure to unassessed pollution.
Accountability must include human health, not just system performance.

Once harm is normalized, it is no longer preventable — only litigated.

STAY HUMAN EVERYONE!



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