



State Connections

The broadband working group for state legislators

Third Friday of Every Month

12:00 ET / 11:00 CT / 10:00 MT / 9:00 PT

July 2026

Agenda

Recording meeting

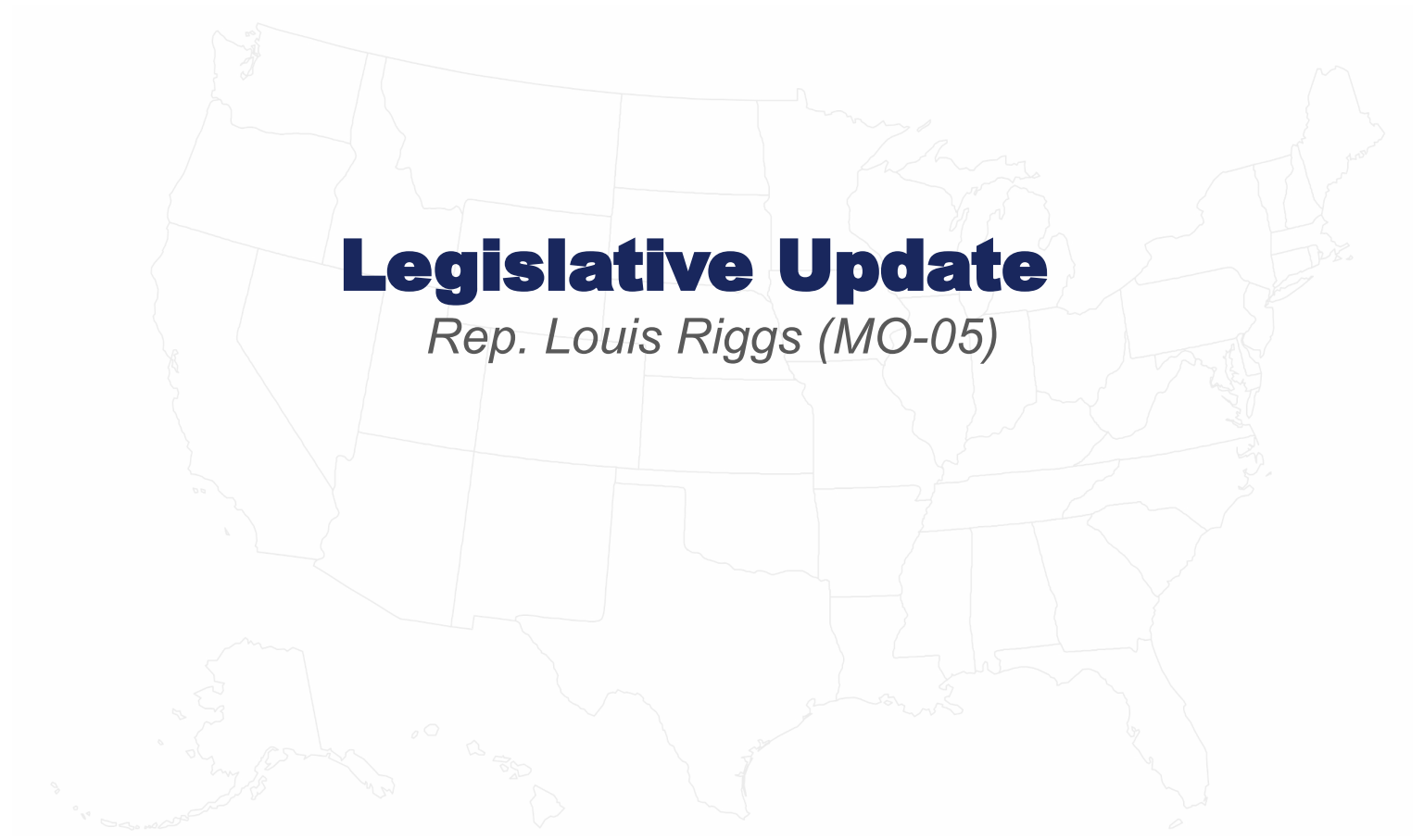
State Legislative Update - Rep. Louis Riggs

State Broadband Legislation Update - Jackson Littlewood, NCSL

OMB's Proposed Rule Changes to Federal Grants - Gigi Sohn, Benton Institute

Federal Broadband Updates

- Latest BEAD news
- FCC reviewing all programs under the Universal Service Fund (USF)
- New developments in the *NDIA v. Trump* case on the legality of the Digital Equity Act



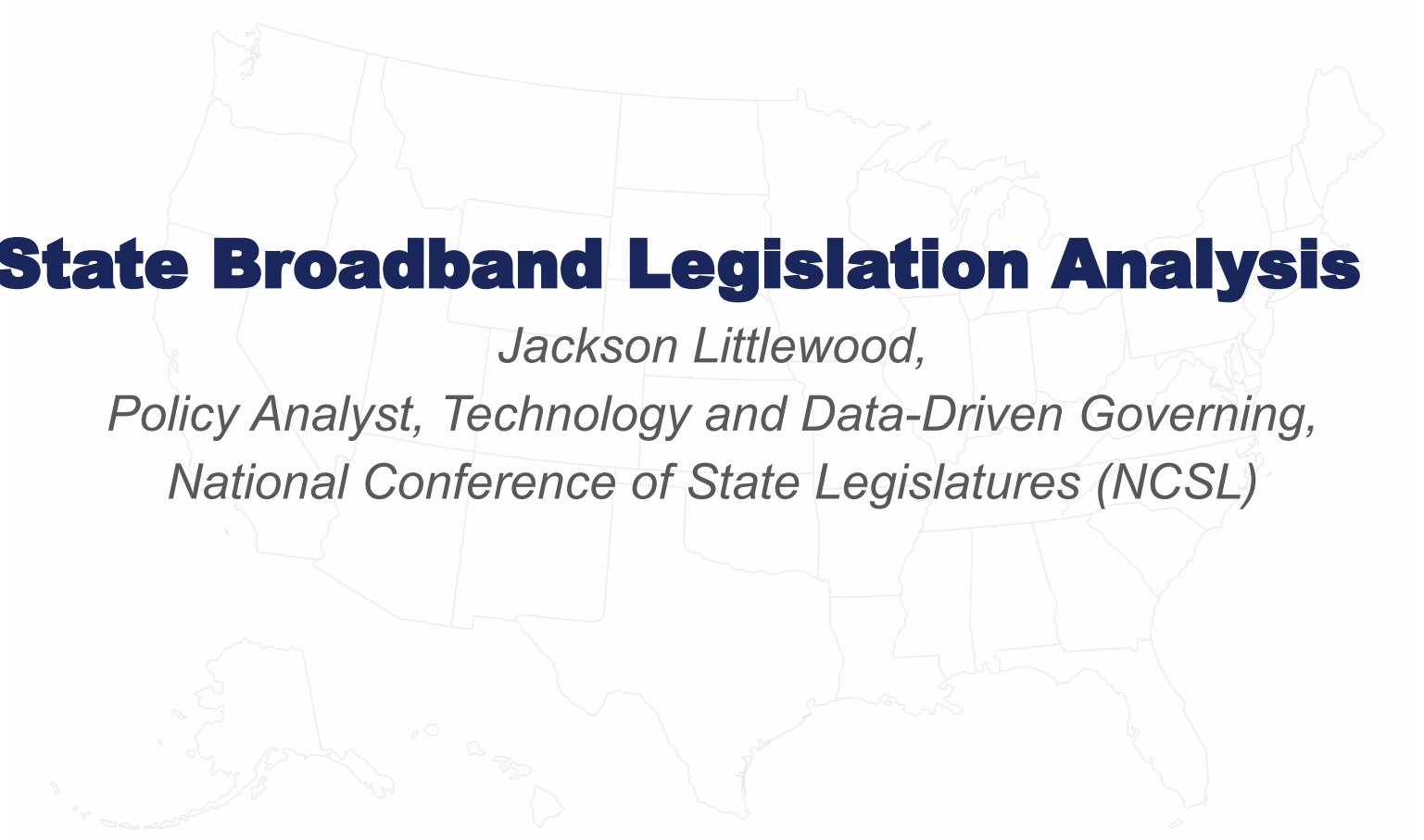
Legislative Update

Rep. Louis Riggs (MO-05)



OMB's Proposed Changes to Federal Grants

*Gigi Sohn, Senior Fellow and Public Advocate,
Benton Institute for Broadband & Society*



State Broadband Legislation Analysis

*Jackson Littlewood,
Policy Analyst, Technology and Data-Driven Governing,
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)*



Broadband State Legislation

State Connections Call
June 26, 2026

How NCSL Strengthens Legislatures

Policy Research

NCSL provides trusted, nonpartisan policy research and analysis

Connections

NCSL links legislators and staff with each other and with experts



State Voices in D.C.

NCSL represents and advocates on behalf of states on Capitol Hill

Training

NCSL delivers training tailored specifically for legislators and staff

Meetings

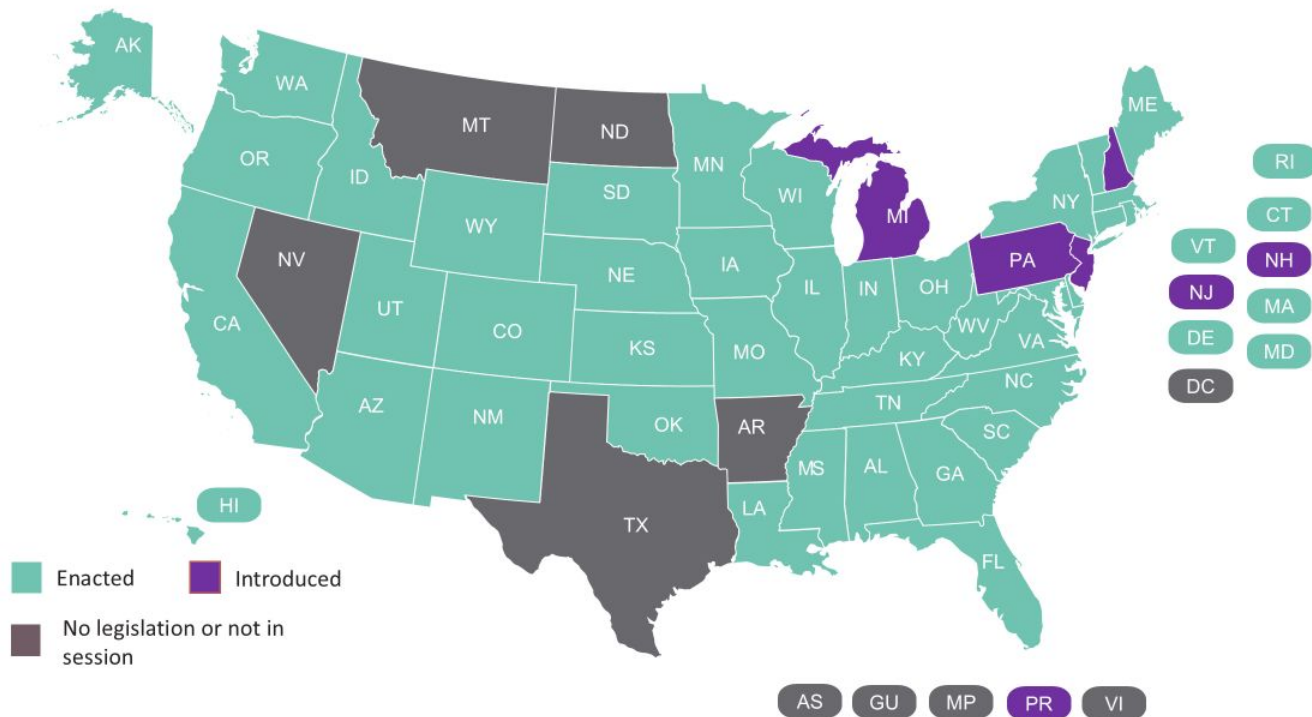
NCSL meetings facilitate information exchange and policy discussions

AGENDA

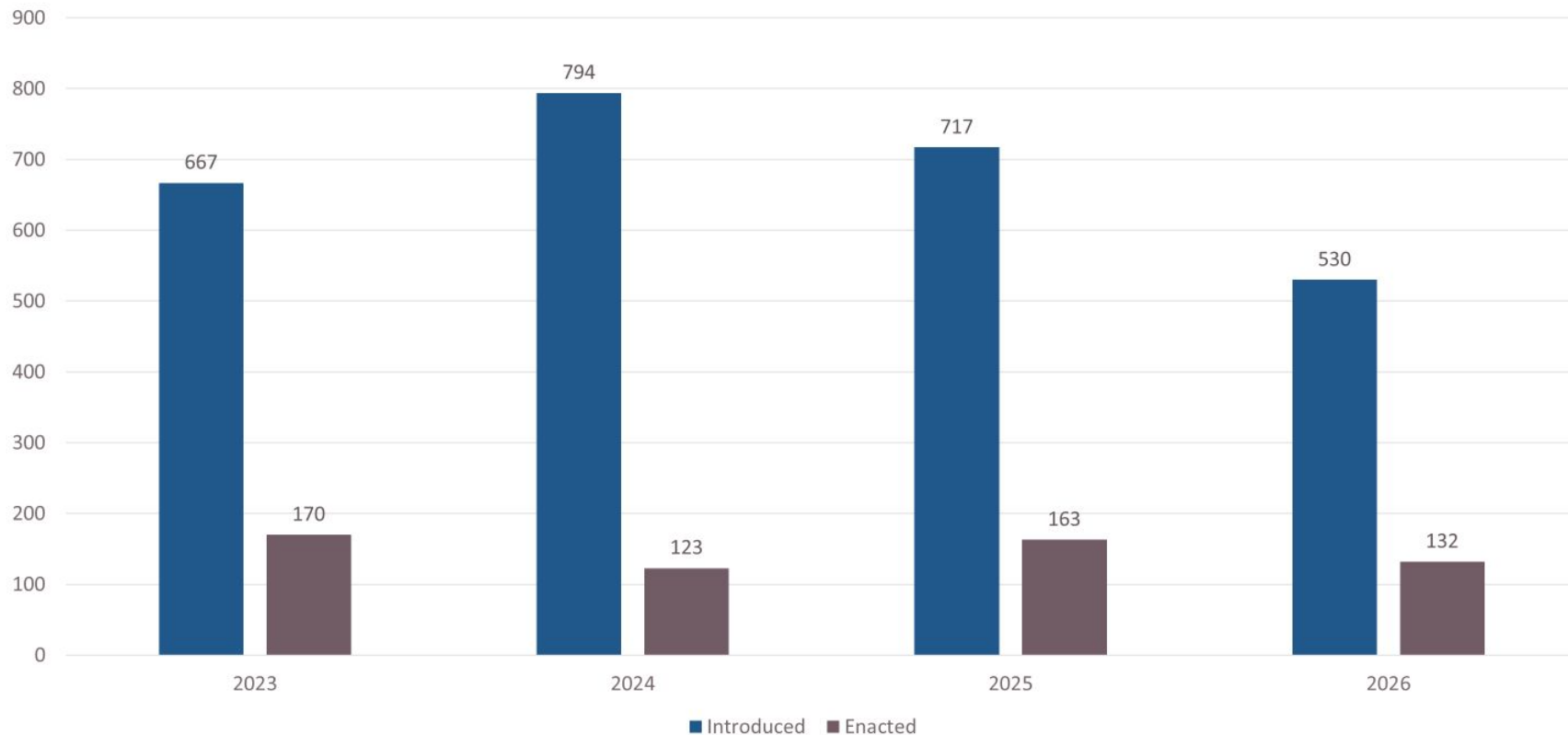
- Broadband State Legislative Trends
- Updates on June and July Legislation
- Enacted Legislation: Early 2026
- Emerging Issues
- Questions



2026 BROADBAND STATE LEGISLATION



Broadband Legislation: Introduced and Enacted, 2023-2026



2026 Legislation by Categories

2026 By Categories

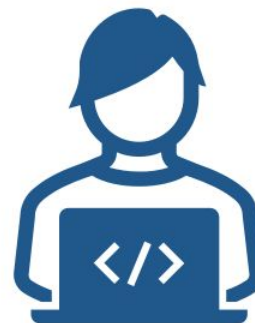
- Most common:
 - Expanding access
 - Funding/Taxes
 - Infrastructure Regulation
- Common:
 - Education/schools
 - Governing Bodies
 - Municipal Networks
 - Provider/Consumer relations
- Least common:
 - Mapping
 - Net Neutrality



Adoption and Affordability

July 2026

- To Governor
 - Delaware SB 307: lifeline eligibility
 - Illinois HB 5470: digital skills programs
 - New York SB 8026: requires broadband in temporary housing



Infrastructure Regulation

July 2026

- Enacted
 - Louisiana HB 1033, Missouri SB 903, Rhode Island SB 2601: broadband as critical infrastructure
 - Arizona SB 1137, Connecticut SB 321, Delaware SB 275, Louisiana SB 469: underground excavation
- Vetoed
 - Arizona HB 2134: prohibiting Chinese software
- Pending in Committees
 - Michigan HB 5940 and HB 6044: rights of way and collocation
 - New Jersey AB 5136: broadband equipment accessibility in new housing



Funding/Taxes

July 2026

- Enacted
 - Arizona HB 2999: infrastructure financing districts
 - Iowa HB 960: sales tax exemption for office broadband equipment
 - Louisiana SB 80: changes funding conditions for GUMBO program
 - South Carolina HB 5122: ISP tax exemptions
- Vetoed
 - Wisconsin SB 176: broadband tax exemption
- Passed House, Pending in Senate
 - California AB 2279 and AB 2790: modifying broadband grant program, e-rate program, teleconnect funding



Provider/Consumer Relations

July 2026

- Enacted
 - Illinois HB 228: price transparency
- Pending in Committees
 - Massachusetts SB 3090: requires ISPs to replace end of life products
 - New York SB 8507: requires end of life disclosures for broadband products
- Failed
 - Louisiana HB 617: price transparency



Enacted Legislation: Early 2026

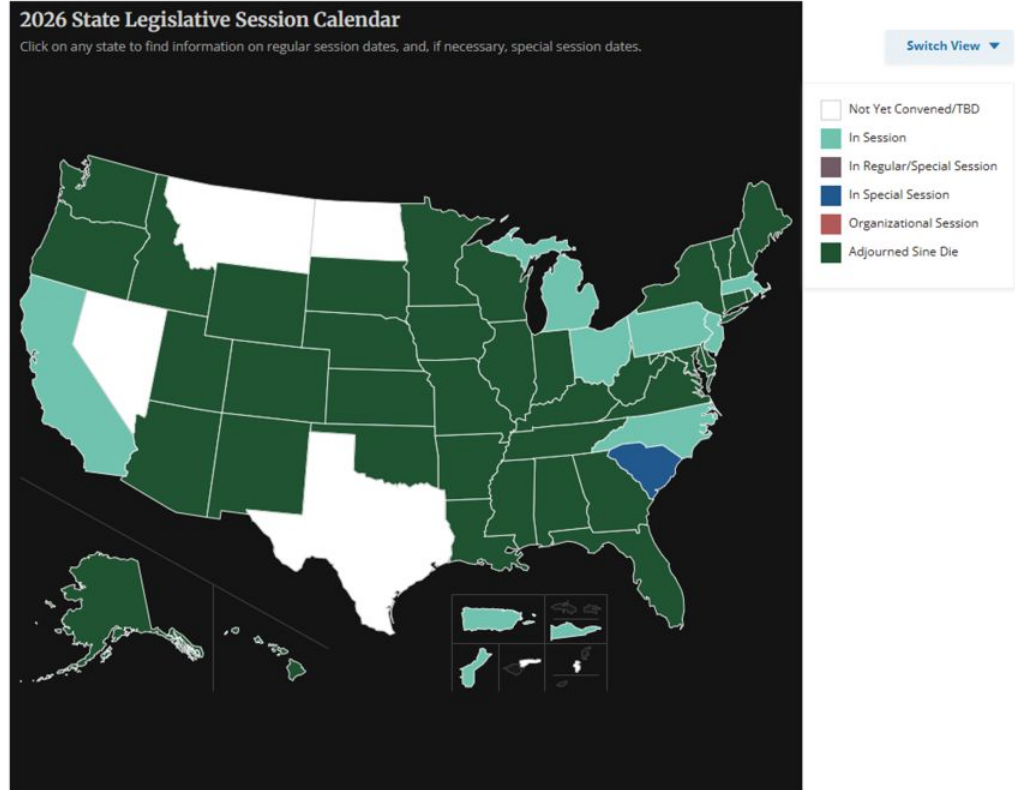
- Affordability/Adoption
 - Kentucky HB 290: internet access at county law libraries
 - New Mexico SB 152: low-income assistance program
- Infrastructure:
 - Indiana SB 271: unauthorized dealing of telecom wires
 - New York AB 9435: pole attachment reports
- Funding:
 - Kansas HB 2647: statewide fiber system
 - Maryland HB 461: rural readiness program



Emerging Issues

Remainder of 2026 session and into 2027

- **Infrastructure**
 - Pole Attachments
 - Undergrounding
- **Broadband Offices**
 - Extensions
 - Shift in duties from funding to maintenance
- **Affordability and Adoption**
 - How states fill gap left by DEA cancellation
- **Federal**
 - BEAD preemption (affordability and AI)
 - OMB order for federal grants



 NCSL L E G I S L A T I V E
SUMMIT
CHICAGO ★ ★ ★ ★ JULY 27-29 | 2026

Thank you for joining today!

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BEAD News



- CA approved, IL remains
 - NTIA approved CA's Final Proposal on July 17. IL is now the only state without approval.
- Non-deployment funds will be released to states
 - Administrator Roth committed to releasing guidance by the end of the Summer.
- LEO reductions
 - NTIA has directed states to review their LEO awards to remove ineligible locations based on recent FCC mapping updates. NYLS estimates that over 300k locations could become ineligible.
- Contracting deadlines are here!
 - States have 6 months to finalize subgrantee agreements once the final proposal is approved by NTIA and NIST. That deadline is here/approaching for many states.

Other Federal Broadband News

- FCC reviewing all USF programs
 - The FCC released a draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to overhaul how schools, libraries, rural health care providers, and rural ISPs interact with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).
- Decision issued in *National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) v. Trump*
 - The Digital Equity Act (DEA) survives, but the inclusion of “individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group” as a “covered population” is found to be unconstitutional and must be severed from the law.

A light gray outline map of the United States, including the contiguous 48 states, Alaska, and Hawaii, serves as the background for the text.

Next Meeting

August 21, 2026

12:00 ET / 11:00 CT / 10:00 MT / 9:00 PT

Contact Information



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