The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Thomas L. Tyler.

DIGEST

SB 455 Reengrossed 2022 Regular Session Boudreaux

Present law creates the office of broadband and connectivity (office) within the office of the governor.

Proposed law moves the office from the office of the governor to the division of administration and changes the name of the office to the office of broadband development and connectivity.

Present law provides that the head of the office shall be appointed by the governor subject to Senate confirmation.

Proposed law deletes present law.

Proposed law provides that the office of broadband development and connectivity shall secure information from any entity providing internet service to at least one location in the state to compile a statewide broadband map.

Proposed law provides that at the request of the office of broadband development and connectivity, any entity providing internet service, shall submit to the office broadband deployment information containing the same information in the same format in which the information is submitted to the Federal Communication commission. Provides that no entity shall be required to provide any data beyond that which is required to be provided to the Federal Communications Commission.

Proposed law provides that any entity providing internet service to at least one location in this state that internet service providers that does not comply with the reporting requirements or provides inaccurate information may be ineligible to participate in, or receive funding from, any state-administered grant program designated for broadband infrastructure deployment in the state in the calendar year of noncompliance and the following calendar year.

Proposed law provides that any location in the state purportedly served by any entity, providing internet service to at least one location in the state, that does not comply with the requirements of present law may be considered to have internet access service of less than 25 megabits per second for download and three megabits per second for upload.

Proposed law provides that any broadband availability data provided shall strictly be used for the purpose of identifying served, underserved, and unserved areas to aid in the administration of the "Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities" program.

Proposed law provides that any entity submitting broadband data may review the proposed of the draft state broadband map and submit any necessary corrective data to the office prior to the
publication or utilization of the state broadband map for any state-administered grant program designated for broadband infrastructure deployment in the state.

Proposed law provides that any entity submitting broadband data may challenge any area ultimately deemed eligible for any state-administered grant program designated for broadband infrastructure deployment in the state that overlap with an entity's verified service territory.

Proposed law authorizes the office to contract with a private entity or third-party consultant to develop and maintain the state broadband map. Provides that any contact entered into by the office and a private entity or third-party consultant for the purpose of developing and maintaining the state broadband map shall include a confidentiality agreement prohibiting the disclosure of any broadband data provided under proposed law.

Proposed law provides that information compiled under Proposed law is exempt from the Public Records Law and is considered confidential, proprietary, and a trade secret of the entity providing the information. Requires that the office, including any private entity or third-party consultant retained or employed under proposed law shall keep strictly confidential and not disclose, or cause or permit to be disclosed, to any third person, private entity or public body any broadband availability data provided under proposed law. Requires that all actions be taken as are reasonably necessary to ensure that the broadband availability data remains strictly confidential and is not disclosed to or seen, used or obtained by any third person, private entity or public body.

Proposed law provides that provisions regarding mapping areas terminate under any one of the following conditions, whichever occurs first:

1. Upon a determination by the office that it is no longer necessary to compile a statewide parish by parish broadband map identifying the locations and capability of broadband service in the state.

2. At midnight on December 31, 2026.

Proposed law authorizes the office to promulgate necessary rules in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Present law sunsets the office at 12 o'clock midnight on June 30, 2023.

Proposed law deletes present law and sunsets the office at 12 o'clock midnight on June 30, 2028.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 51:1361(3), 1362(A), 1363(intro para), 1365, and R.S. 44:4.1(B)(35); adds R.S. 51:1363.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate
Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the original bill

1. Make technical changes.

2. Moves the office of broadband development and connectivity from the office of the governor to the division of administration.

3. Requires internet service providers to report certain information to the office of broadband and connectivity.

4. Provides internet service providers may be ineligible for certain grants if they do not comply with reporting requirements or provide inaccurate information to the office of broadband and connectivity.

5. Provides that a potentially served location now in compliance with proposed law requirements may be considered unserved.

6. Exempts from public records the information submitted by the internet service providers to the office of broadband and connectivity.

7. Sunsets the office of broadband and connectivity on June 30, 2026.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Changes name of office to the office of broadband development and connectivity.

2. Places the office in the division of administration.

3. Add provisions for use of broadband availability data to be used strictly to identity served, underserved, and unserved areas.

4. Authorizes an entity submitting data to review the proposed draft state broadband map and submit necessary corrections and to challenge any area ultimately deemed eligible for any state-administered grant program designated for broadband infrastructure development.

5. Authorizes the office to contract with private entities or third-party consultants to develop and maintain the state broadband map.

6. Adds provisions that information compiled is exempt from the Public Records Law and is to be considered confidential, proprietary, and a trade secret of the entity providing the information.
7. Requires that the office, any private entity, or third-party consultant keep broadband availability data strictly confidential, and shall not disclose or cause or permit to be disclosed to any third person, private entity or public body.

8. Provides for termination of mapping provisions under certain conditions.

9. Extend termination of the office of broadband development and connectivity from June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2028.

10. Adds effective upon governor's signature.