

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 80

BY SENATOR MIZELL

COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS. Provides for the regulation of certain broadband services. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 51:2370.13, 2370.15, 2370.32(B), 2370.41, and 2370.51, relative
3 to the regulation of certain broadband services; to provide for administration fees;
4 to provide for reimbursement of grantees; to provide for grants; and to provide for
5 related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 51:2370.13, 2370.15, 2370.32(B), 2370.41, and 2370.51 are hereby
8 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §2370.13. Administration fee

10 The office may use up to ~~one~~ **two and one-half** percent of the appropriated
11 funds to administer the GUMBO program. The office may use an additional ~~one~~ **two**
12 **and one-half** percent of the appropriated funds to hire third-party contractors as
13 deemed necessary for the further administration of the GUMBO program. The
14 additional ~~one~~ **two and one-half** percent shall not be used as compensation for any
15 new or existing positions within the office.

16 * * *

17 §2370.15. Reimbursement for grantees

1 Initial funding of ten percent shall be distributed to a grantee once the grantee
 2 has demonstrated that ten percent of the project has been completed. ~~Thereafter,~~
 3 ~~payments shall be distributed as follows: thirty-five percent completion, sixty percent~~
 4 ~~completion, eighty-five percent completion, and the final fifteen percent~~ **The office**
 5 **may determine the thresholds of completion for the remaining disbursements**
 6 **and promulgate appropriate rules. The final** payment shall not be paid without
 7 an approved completion report. Invoice for final payment shall be submitted within
 8 ninety days of completion date. All invoices are subject to audit for three years from
 9 the completion date.

10 * * *

11 §2370.32. Reimbursement for grantees

12 * * *

13 B. Except as provided in Subsection C of this Section, the next ten percent
 14 of the subgrant award shall be provided based on provider certification and the
 15 office's verification that ten percent of the eligible locations have been reached. ~~The~~
 16 ~~remaining disbursements shall be given at the thresholds of completion of thirty-five~~
 17 ~~percent, sixty percent, eighty-five percent, and one hundred percent.~~ **The office may**
 18 **determine the thresholds of completion for the remaining disbursements which**
 19 **shall be defined in the GUMBO 2.0 subgrant agreement.** The final disbursement
 20 for one hundred percent completion shall be given only after verification of one
 21 hundred percent deployment to eligible locations, within the mandatory forty-eight-
 22 month maximum deadline, which may be extended up to a year by the office or
 23 another shorter timeline certified by the applicant. The office shall disburse funds
 24 only for completed deployments that comply with the terms included in the
 25 successful application and shall withhold funds for failure to do so.

26 * * *

27 §2370.41. GUMBO 3.0

28 **A.** In the event that there are remaining GUMBO 2.0 funds after the
 29 obligation of infrastructure funds, the office shall run a grant program,

1 nondeployment, that will allow eligible parties including but not limited to state
2 agencies, nonprofits, for-profits, academic institutions, and planning commissions
3 to utilize these funds to help address challenges in economic development, workforce
4 development, health care, cybersecurity, agriculture, and other sectors and industries
5 of importance to the state of Louisiana, as determined by approval of Volume 2 of
6 Initial Proposal from the office and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or
7 IJA, the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment, or BEAD, Program, and the
8 Notice of Funding Opportunity, or NOFO, with an obligation deadline of these funds
9 to be completed no later than December 12, 2024. This program will be designated
10 as "Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities 3.0", and the office
11 shall have the authority to create appropriate rules and scoring criteria.

12 **B. Grants solicited and awarded pursuant to the GUMBO 3.0 program**
13 **are subject to the provisions of the Louisiana Procurement Code, R.S. 39:1551**
14 **et seq., or the state Public Bid Law, R.S. 38:2181 et seq. Alternative**
15 **procurement methods consistent with the requirements defined by the assistant**
16 **secretary of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration**
17 **of the United States Department of Commerce may be used to solicit and award**
18 **grants pursuant to the GUMBO 3.0 program if determined in writing by the**
19 **commissioner of administration to be in the best interest of the state. The office**
20 **may promulgate rules that are consistent with the requirements promulgated**
21 **by the assistant secretary pursuant to the IJA, BEAD program guidelines, state**
22 **law, and this Subpart.**

23 §2370.51. GUMBO 4.0

24 **A.** The office shall have the authority to develop the rules, scoring criteria,
25 and eligibility in the execution of the State's First Digital Opportunity Plan, pending
26 approval from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration,
27 a Sub-Agency of the United States Department of Commerce. Eligible parties shall
28 include but not be limited to state agencies, nonprofits, for-profits, academic
29 institutions, and planning commissions. This program will be designated as

1 "Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities 4.0".

2 **B. Grants solicited and awarded pursuant to the GUMBO 4.0 program**
 3 **are subject to the provisions of the Louisiana Procurement Code, R.S. 39:1551**
 4 **et seq., or the state Public Bid Law, R.S. 38:2181 et seq. Alternative**
 5 **procurement methods consistent with the requirements defined by the assistant**
 6 **secretary of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration**
 7 **of the United States Department of Commerce may be used to solicit and award**
 8 **grants pursuant to the GUMBO 4.0 program if determined in writing by the**
 9 **commissioner of administration to be in the best interest of the state. The office**
 10 **may promulgate rules that are consistent with the requirements promulgated**
 11 **by the assistant secretary pursuant to the IIJA, BEAD program guidelines, state**
 12 **law, and this Subpart.**

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 80 Reengrossed

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Mizell

Present law provides for the office of broadband development and connectivity.

Present law provides that the office may use up to 1% of the appropriated funds to administer the GUMBO program. Provides that the office may use an additional 1% of the appropriated funds to hire third-party contractors as deemed necessary for the further administration of the GUMBO program and provides that the additional 1% percent shall not be used as compensation for any new or existing positions within the office.

Proposed law increases the amount the office may use to administer the GUMBO program from 1% to 2.5%.

Proposed law increases the amount the office may use to hire third-party contractors as deemed necessary for the further administration of the GUMBO program from 1% to 2.5%.

Present law provides the initial funding of 10% shall be distributed to a GUMBO 1.0 grantee once the grantee has demonstrated that 10% of the project has been completed. Provides that payments shall be then distributed as follows: 35% completion, 60% completion, 85% completion, and the final 15% payment shall not be paid without an approved completion report.

Proposed law amends present law to provide that after the initial funding of 10%, the office may determine the thresholds of completion for the remaining disbursements and promulgate appropriate rules. Prohibits the final payment be paid without an approved completion report.

Present law provides that except as provided in present law, the next 10% of the GUMBO 2.0 subgrant award, after the initial 10%, shall be provided based on provider certification and the office's verification that 10% of the eligible locations have been reached. Provides that the remaining disbursements shall be given at the thresholds of completion of 35%, 60%, 85%, and 100%.

Proposed law provides that the office may determine the thresholds of completion for the remaining disbursements which shall be defined in the GUMBO 2.0 subgrant agreement.

Present law creates the GUMBO 3.0 program.

Proposed law provides for grants administered under the GUMBO 3.0 program.

Present law creates the GUMBO 4.0 program.

Proposed law provides for grants administered under the GUMBO 4.0 program.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 51:2370.13, 2370.15, 2370.32(B), 2370.41, and 2370.51)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Remove the oversight and enforcement authority by the office of broadband development and connectivity.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Make technical changes.
2. Correctly change the name from the United States Department of Commerce for Communications and Information to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the United States Department of Commerce.