SLS 20RS-686 ORIGINAL

2020 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY SENATOR MIZELL

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TRANSPORTATION/DEV DEPT. Requests DOTD to determine which of its assets are available for broadband internet lines and to implement a "Dig Once" policy allowing broadband internet operators to install cable in the ground.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to determine which
3	of its assets are available for broadband internet lines and to implement a "Dig Once"
4	policy allowing broadband internet operators to install cable in the ground more
5	economically.
6	WHEREAS, there is a digital divide between demographics and regions that have
7	access to modern technology and communications and those that do not; and
8	WHEREAS, data from the United States Department of Transportation's Intelligent
9	Transportation Systems Joint Program Office indicates that the average cost of deploying
10	fiber-optic cable is about twenty-seven thousand dollars per mile; and
11	WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration recently reported that up to ninety
12	percent of the cost to install broadband cable is tied to the process of actually digging up
13	roadways and not to the actual installation of the fiber lines; and
14	WHEREAS, this expense inhibits the deployment of fiber-optic cable in more
15	isolated areas, as well as those with lower population densities or unfavorable terrain,
16	contributing to the service gap between urban and rural residents; and
17	WHEREAS, this discrepancy is clearly shown in United States Department of
18	Transportation data, when between 2001 and 2013, per-mile deployment costs ranged

1	between six thousand six hundred dollars and two hundred sixty-seven thousand dollars per
2	mile; and
3	WHEREAS, the incredibly expensive cost to install high-speed fiber-optic
4	infrastructures is the most formidable barrier to bridging the digital divide; and
5	WHEREAS, a "Dig Once" policy is aimed at cost cutting and seeks to save money
6	by minimizing the amount of excavation required to install infrastructure and facilitating
7	access to public rights-of-way; and
8	WHEREAS, a "Dig Once" policy attempts to lower the cost of broadband
9	deployment by providing internet companies access to state-owned rights-of-way and is
10	complemented by the mandatory installation of the conduit for fiber-optic cable during road
11	construction, or by allowing qualified broadband deployments to be installed during road
12	construction projects; and
13	WHEREAS, some states and cities have promoted the idea of future-proofing public
14	highway rights-of-way during road construction projects; and
15	WHEREAS, this concept is generally referred to as "Dig Once" and mandates
16	inclusion of broadband conduits, flexible plastic pipes that may be used to more easily install
17	fiber-optic communications cable; and
18	WHEREAS, the "Dig Once" policy effectively eliminates the need to dig up recently-
19	paved roads to expand broadband infrastructure, significantly reducing the cost to provide
20	internet access to under served communities.
21	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
22	urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to determine which of
23	its assets are available for installation of broadband internet lines and to implement a "Dig
24	Once" policy to allow a broadband internet operator to install cable in the ground more
25	economically.
26	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than March 1, 2021, that the Department
27	of Transportation and Development shall prepare a written report of its findings and
28	recommendations to the House of Representatives and to the Senate.
29	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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ORIGINAL SCR NO. 35

SCR 35 Original

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sharon F. Lyles.

DIGEST 2020 Regular Session

Mizell

Requests DOTD to determine which of its assets are available for installation of broadband internet lines and to implement a "Dig Once" policy to allow a broadband internet operator to install cable in the ground more economically.

Requires DOTD to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the speaker of the House of Representatives and to the president of the Senate no later than March 1, 2021.