
DIGEST

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HB 1080 Original

2022 Regular Session

Deshotel

Abstract: Makes changes to the GUMBO grant program.

Present law requires an applicant to provide a description of the broadband service to be provided by including the proposed upstream and downstream speeds to be delivered. Pursuant to present law an area that has access to internet with a connection speed of 3/25 Mbps is not considered an unserved area eligible for a grant.

Proposed law requires the office to collect information to be used to create a statewide broadband map to be utilized by the office in administering the GUMBO program.

Proposed law retains the requirement that an applicant provide a description of the area and proposed connection speed, but raises the minimum allowable connection speed that constitutes an unserved area from 25/3 Mbps to 100/20 Mbps.

Present law provides a procedure for protest by the provider and requires the provider to attest that all information is correct. Proposed law retains present law, and specifies that a protest can only be brought to challenge the determination of an area as unserved. Proposed law further modifies the protest process by making changes relative to various time limits.

Present law allows for judicial review of a decision made by the office relative to an award. Proposed law retains present law but limits the grounds for challenge.

Present law allows the office to use up to 1% of the appropriate funds to administer the program.

Proposed law raises the cap on the administrative fee from 1% to 2% and specifies that the additional 1% is not to be used for in-office personnel positions.

(Amends R.S. 44:4.1(B)(35) and R.S. 51:2370.2(intro. para.), (2), and (16), 2370.3(A) and (E), 2370.4(A)(intro. para.) and (12), (B), and (C)(1), 2370.5(A), (B)(intro. para.), (D), (E), (H), (I), and (J), 2370.13, and 2370.16; Adds R.S. 51:2370.2(intro. para.) and (5), 2370.4(A)(8) and (C)(1), and 2370.13)