

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 617

BY REPRESENTATIVE DESHOTEL

UTILITIES: Provides relative to broadband

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 51:2370.17, relative to broadband; to provide for GUMBO 1.0; to provide for
3 unobligated funds; to allow additional funding for local government under certain
4 circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 51:2370.17 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §2370.17. Unobligated funds

8 A.(1) The office shall have the authority to use any unobligated funds from
9 GUMBO 1.0 as of June 3, 2024 on eligible non broadband infrastructure project uses
10 defined in the United States Department of the Treasury document titled "Guidance
11 for the Coronavirus Capital Project Fund for States, Territories and Freely
12 Associated States" and for uses outlined in Subsection B of this Section.

13 (2) The office shall promulgate necessary rules and scoring criteria for the
14 use of these funds.

15 B.(1) If a local government, that has committed to provide matching funds
16 pursuant to R.S. 51: 2370.8, depletes funding before a project is completed, the local
17 government may apply to the office of broadband for the remainder of funds to
18 complete the project.

19 (2) The office may establish a process by which to grant the remaining
20 committed match funds to local governments.

1 (3) A local government shall notify the office of the depletion of matching
2 funds that have been committed before the twenty-month period has expired. The
3 office of broadband may at its discretion extend the twenty-month period to ensure
4 funding is allocated in accordance with R.S. 51:2370.3(B)(2).

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

HB 617 Original

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Deshotel

Abstract: Provides relative to broadband.

Proposed law provides that the office shall have the authority to use any unobligated funds from GUMBO 1.0 as of June 3, 2024 on eligible non broadband infrastructure project uses defined in the US Treasury document titled "Guidance for the Coronavirus Capital Project Fund, for States, Territories and Freely Associated States" and for uses outlined in proposed law. The office shall promulgate rules and scoring criteria for these funds.

Proposed law adds that if a local government, who has committed to provide matching funds, pursuant to present law, depletes funding before a project is completed, the local government may apply to the office of broadband for the remainder of funds to complete the project.

Proposed law provides that the office of broadband may establish a process by which to grant the remaining committed match funds to local governments.

Proposed law provides that the local government shall notify the office of broadband of the depletion of matching funds that have been committed before the 20-month period has expired. The office of broadband may at its discretion extend the 20-month period to ensure funding is allocated in accordance with present law.

(Adds R.S. 51:2370.17)