

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 163

BY SENATOR BROWN

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Honorable John Bel Edwards, Governor of the state of Louisiana, to take all necessary action to seek federal funding to provide high-speed broadband Internet to all Louisiana citizens.

WHEREAS, access to high-speed broadband is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity for families, businesses, and consumers, a key competitive factor for economic development, education, and quality of life, and vital to full participation in economic, educational, political, and social life; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is the 36th most broadband connected state in the nation with only 77% of the state's population having access to 25+ mbps wired broadband, 19% of the state's citizens are underserved with access to less than two wired providers, and 250,000 people do not have any wired Internet provider available where they live, all according to BroadbandNow, which particularly impacts persons in high poverty and in remote urban and rural areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, funding for broadband projects, including deployment, public access, adoption, and planning initiatives, is available through a number of federal agencies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Honorable John Bel Edwards, Governor of the state of Louisiana, to take all necessary action to seek federal funding to provide high-speed broadband Internet to all Louisiana citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor of the state of Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE