

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
30 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

