

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 78

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHEXNAYDER, GAROFALO, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BEAULLIEU, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARRIER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, CORMIER, COX, CREWS, DAVIS, DESHOTEL, ECHOLS, EDMONDS, FIRMENT, FREIBERG, FRIEMAN, GADBERRY, GAINES, GOUDEAU, HARRIS, HODGES, HORTON, HUGHES, ILLG, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, KERNER, LACOMBE, LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MACK, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCCORMICK, MCFARLAND, MCKNIGHT, MCMAHEN, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MINCEY, MOORE, CHARLES OWEN, PRESSLY, RISER, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, SELDERS, ST. BLANC, STAGNI, THOMAS, THOMPSON, WHEAT, WHITE, WILLARD, AND WRIGHT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Broadband for Everyone in Louisiana Commission to create and provide broadband maps, in cooperation and coordination with the Federal Communications Commission's efforts, to identify access and activation gaps in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, in the modern economy, rural broadband is a lifeline to quality of life and economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, while broadband high-speed internet service is abundantly available in Louisiana cities, it is woefully absent in the rural areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, eighty percent of the twenty-four million American households who lack reliable and affordable high-speed internet are in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, though the United States Department of Agriculture, is currently making investments in broadband infrastructures to help transform rural America, providing innovation and technology to increase economic competitiveness and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture currently provides loans and grants to increase high-speed internet access in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, a reliable and accurate mapping of current broadband access and activation gaps is critical to effectively utilizing these resources; and

WHEREAS, the currently available broadband maps have proven to be unreliable and inaccurate; and

WHEREAS, a local approach to mapping will provide better information for Louisiana residents and businesses to use in order to have access to broadband services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Broadband for Everyone in Louisiana Commission within the office of the governor to create and provide broadband maps using open-source software, in cooperation and coordination with the Federal Communications Commission's efforts, to identify access and activation gaps.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the broadband maps requested by this Resolution be submitted to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs on or before January 1, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Broadband for Everyone in Louisiana Commission within the office of the governor.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE