HLS 201ES-431 ORIGINAL

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 40

1

BY REPRESENTATIVE DESHOTEL

RAILROADS: Urges and requests the House Committee on Commerce to study the effects that the railroads have on broadband deployment

A RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the House Committee on Commerce to meet and study the current
3	effects that railroads have on broadband deployment and to report its findings to the
4	legislature.
5	WHEREAS, in the modern economy, access to broadband service is a lifeline to
6	quality of life and economic opportunity; and
7	WHEREAS, more advanced communication capabilities and access to broadband
8	service are needed in this state; and
9	WHEREAS, citizens of this state rely on critical infrastructure, including railroads,
10	to access broadband and connectivity to the regional, national, and global economy; and
11	WHEREAS, this critical broadband infrastructure enhances the local, regional, and
12	state economy, the quality of life, and the strength of communities in this state; and
13	WHEREAS, the continued lack of advanced communication capabilities and access
14	to broadband service in certain remote and rural areas of this state presents challenges to
15	individuals residing and businesses operating in this state, which can include deficiency in
16	poor infrastructure, limited transit options, scarcity of employment possibilities, lack of other
17	technological advances, and overall lack of economic growth; and
18	WHEREAS, a thorough and systematic study of the existing issues caused by the
19	lack of broadband access due to the effects that railroads have on broadband deployment is
20	necessary and appropriate; and

1 WHEREAS, the elimination of access and cost issues that railroads cause is

- 2 necessary to expand broadband service into unserved areas; and
- WHEREAS, a study of the current effects that railroads have on broadband
- 4 deployment is a critical component to solving the broadband accessibility issue.
- 5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
- 6 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the House Committee on Commerce
- 7 to meet and study the current effects that railroads have on broadband deployment and to
- 8 report its findings to the legislature.
- 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Committee on Commerce shall solicit
- 10 input, recommendations, and advice from, but not limited to, the following or their
- 11 representatives:
- 12 (1) AT&T.
- 13 (2) CenturyLink.
- 14 (3) Charter.
- 15 (4) Cleco.
- 16 (5) Comcast.
- 17 (6) Cox Communications.
- 18 (5) CSX Transportation.
- 19 (7) EATEL.
- 20 (8) Entergy.
- 21 (9) Suddenlink.
- 22 (10) The Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives.
- 23 (11) The BNSF Railway.
- 24 (12) The Canadian National Railway.
- 25 (13) The Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association.
- 26 (14) Hunt Telecommunications.
- 27 (15) The Kansas City Southern Railway.
- 28 (16) The Louisiana Cable Association.
- 29 (17) The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.
- 30 (18) The Louisiana Internet and Television Association.

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- 1 (19) The Louisiana Southern Railroad.
- 2 (20) The Louisiana Telecommunications Association.
- 3 (21) The Norfolk Southern Railway.
- 4 (22) The Union Pacific Railroad Company.
- 5 (23) Unity Communications.
- 6 (24) Verizon.
- 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Committee on Commerce shall report
- 8 its findings to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the
- 9 Legislature.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
- 11 AT&T, CenturyLink, Charter, Cleco, Comcast, Cox Communications, CSX Transportation,
- 12 EATEL, Entergy, Suddenlink, the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, the BNSF
- Railway, the Canadian National Railway, the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet
- 14 Association, Hunt Telecommunications, the Kansas City Southern Railway, the Louisiana
- 15 Cable Association, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the
- 16 Louisiana Internet and Television Association, the Louisiana Southern Railroad, the
- 17 Louisiana Telecommunications Association, the Norfolk Southern Railway, the Union
- 18 Pacific Railroad Company, Unity Communications, and Verizon.

## **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)]

HR 40 Original

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