HLS 23RS-2609 ORIGINAL

2023 Regular Session

1

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 103

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

UTILITIES: Memorializes the United States Congress to support the extension of funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program which provides our citizens with access to broadband services

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the United States Congress to support the extension of funding for the
3	Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) of 2021, which provides our citizens with
4	access to broadband services.
5	WHEREAS, in August of 2019, by executive order, Governor John Bel Edwards
6	created the Broadband for Everyone in Louisiana commission. This commission facilitates
7	private sector providers, public entities, and other broadband stakeholders to improve both
8	the adoption and availability of broadband service for Louisiana residents by providing
9	universal access to broadband service; and
10	WHEREAS, during the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session of the Legislature of
11	Louisiana, the legislature created the office of broadband and connectivity within the
12	governor's office to promote and encourage broadband adoption for households in an effort
13	to eliminate the digital divide in Louisiana by 2029; and
14	WHEREAS, the office of broadband and connectivity's mission is to coordinate
15	federal, state, and municipal efforts by identifying best practices and tactics necessary in
16	their goal; and
17	WHEREAS, in 2021, as part of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
18	Act's historic investment in broadband infrastructure and digital equity, Congress
19	appropriated more than fourteen billion dollars for the ACP; and

1	WHEREAS, Congress assigned the Federal Communications Commission to
2	administer the ACP, the successor program to the Emergency Broadband Benefit, which
3	helped almost nine million households afford internet access during the pandemic; and
4	WHEREAS, under the ACP, eligible households can receive up to thirty dollars per
5	month discount toward internet services and up to seventy-five dollars per month for
6	households on qualifying tribal lands; and
7	WHEREAS, eligible households may also receive a one-time discount of up to one
8	hundred dollars to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating
9	providers; and
10	WHEREAS, Louisiana was the first state to receive broadband award approval from
11	the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and is number one in the nation for
12	ACP enrollment with an estimated forty-six percent of eligible households enrolled; and
13	WHEREAS, currently, there are more than nine hundred thousand eligible
14	households within the state that may qualify for the ACP and four hundred and twenty-two
15	thousand, two hundred and fifty-seven households that have enrolled; and
16	WHEREAS, based on current take rates, the more than fourteen billion dollars in
17	funding appropriated for the ACP program could be exhausted in late 2023 or early 2024;
18	and
19	WHEREAS, the ACP has been a critical tool in helping bridge the "digital divide"
20	that exists between those who have access to modern information and communications
21	technology and those who do not.
22	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
23	urge and request each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation to support
24	continued funding of the ACP so that low-income Louisiana households can continue to
25	receive the support they need to participate in the digital marketplace.
26	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
27	presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
28	United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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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)]

HCR 103 Original

2023 Regular Session

Schexnayder

Requests the Louisiana congressional delegation to support the extension of funding for the federal Affordable Connectivity Program of 2021.