

SENATE SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 80

2026 Regular Session

Mizell

KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS. Provides for the regulation of certain broadband services. (8/1/26)

SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL

1. Provides that the administrative fees outlined in proposed law apply only to GUMBO 1.0.
2. Reverts the reimbursement process for grantees in GUMBO 1.0 to present law.
3. Reverts the GUMBO 2.0 reimbursement process to present law.
4. Allows the office to withhold only the final GUMBO 2.0 payment, and only for the unpaid portion of a final, non-appealable court judgment for underground utility or facility damage after the provider is found legally at fault and fails to pay.
5. Allows the office to require repair, reimbursement, coordination, local request, or other compliance documentation before releasing withheld funds, but makes the administrative evidence and office findings inadmissible in court.
6. Prohibits withholding progress payments or interim disbursements and allows withholding only from the final disbursement or closeout payment if authorized through APA rulemaking.
7. Requires the rules promulgated by the office to include notice, grounds for withholding, and an opportunity to cure or respond before final agency action and provides that the office may not promulgate rules through emergency rulemaking.
8. Provides that the rules for GUMBO 3.0 will be promulgated after the NTIA releases non-deployment guidance.
9. Repeals GUMBO 4.0 in its entirety.
10. Make technical changes.

DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

DIGEST

SB 80 Reengrossed

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Present law provides for the office of broadband development and connectivity.

Present law provides that the office may use up to 1% of the appropriated funds to administer the GUMBO program. Provides that the office may use an additional 1% of the appropriated funds to hire third-party contractors as deemed necessary for the further administration of the GUMBO program and provides that the additional 1% percent shall not be used as compensation for any new or existing positions within the office.

Proposed law increases the amount the office may use to administer the GUMBO 1.0 program from 1% to 2.5%.

Proposed law increases the amount the office may use to hire third-party contractors as deemed necessary for the further administration of the GUMBO 1.0 program from 1% to 2.5%.

Present law provides that, except as provided in present law, the next 10% of the GUMBO 2.0 subgrant award, after the initial 10%, shall be provided based on provider certification and the office's verification that 10% of the eligible locations have been reached. Provides that the remaining disbursements shall be given at the thresholds of completion of 35%, 60%, 85%, and 100%.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the office to withhold only the final payment owed to a provider for GUMBO 2.0 projects, and only in an amount equal to the unpaid portion of a final judgment for damage to underground utilities or facilities. Proposed law applies only after a court of competent jurisdiction issues a final, non-appealable judgment determining that the provider is legally at fault for the damage and the provider has failed to timely satisfy the judgement.

Proposed law authorizes the office to require documentation related to repairs, reimbursement of damages, corrective action plans, utility coordination records, locate requests, or other compliance measures, before releasing withheld funds. Further provides that evidence gathered during the administrative process, and any finding made by the office, shall not be admissible as evidence in any court of law.

Proposed law prohibits the office from withholding any progress payment or interim disbursement. Further authorizes the office to withhold only the final disbursement or closeout payment of a GUMBO 2.0 grant, and only if the withholding is authorized by rules promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act after completion of the regular notice, public comment, and legislative oversight process.

Proposed law requires the rules to provide notice to the grantee, a statement of the grounds for withholding, and an opportunity for the grantee to cure or respond before final agency action. Further prohibits the office from using emergency rulemaking to implement these provisions.

Present law creates the GUMBO 3.0 program.

Proposed law provides for grants administered under the GUMBO 3.0 program and clarifies that the rules for GUMBO 3.0 will be promulgated after the NTIA releases non-deployment guidance.

Present law creates GUMBO 4.0 program. Proposed law repeals present law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 51:2370.13, 2370.32(B), and 2370.41; Repeals R.S. 51:2370.51)