

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 155

BY REPRESENTATIVE DESHOTEL

UTILITIES: Creates a study group to study the barriers to deploying broadband across public and private property

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create and provide for a study group to study the barriers to deploying broadband across
3 public and private property and to report its findings, along with proposed legislation
4 to remove barriers to deployment across public and private property, to the House
5 of Representatives no later than forty-five days prior to the convening of the 2024
6 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

7 WHEREAS, several hundred thousand households throughout Louisiana lack access
8 to broadband service; and

9 WHEREAS, the continued lack of access to broadband service in this state presents
10 challenges to individuals residing and businesses operating in this state; and

11 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana received more than one hundred seventy-six
12 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan's Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF)
13 to expand access to broadband in the state; and

14 WHEREAS, the office of broadband development and connectivity has awarded
15 broadband providers CPF monies for the deployment of broadband to unserved areas
16 through the Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO) grant
17 program; and

18 WHEREAS, any unused CPF monies must be returned to the United States
19 Department of Treasury by December 31, 2026; and

20 WHEREAS, it is estimated that the state will receive an additional one billion dollars
21 through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program of the United

1 States Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information
2 Administration to further expand access to broadband in the state; and

3 WHEREAS, acquiring rights to access and use of public and private property,
4 including rights-of-way and servitudes, for broadband deployment can be a lengthy process
5 that impedes broadband deployment; and

6 WHEREAS, delays in deploying broadband in the state puts the state's federal
7 funding for broadband at risk.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
9 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a study group to study the barriers to deploying
10 broadband across public and private property and does hereby request the study group to
11 report its findings, along with proposed legislation to remove barriers to deployment across
12 public and private property, to the House of Representatives no later than forty-five days
13 prior to the convening of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall be comprised of the
15 following members:

16 (1) The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or his
17 designee.

18 (2) The executive director of the office of broadband development and
19 connectivity or his designee.

20 (3) The chief executive officer of the Association of Louisiana Electric
21 Cooperatives or his designee.

22 (4) The chief executive officer of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry
23 Association or his designee.

24 (5) The president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry or his
25 designee.

26 (6) The executive director of the Louisiana Internet and Television-The
27 Broadband Association or his designee.

28 (7) The president of the Louisiana Landowners Association or his designee.

29 (8) The executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association or his
30 designee.

- 1 (9) One representative from the Louisiana Railroads Association.
- 2 (10) The executive director of the Louisiana Police Jury Association or his
- 3 designee.
- 4 (11) The chairman of the Louisiana Telecommunications Association or his
- 5 designee.
- 6 (12) One representative from the Natural Resources Management Association.
- 7 (13) One representative from AT&T.
- 8 (14) The chief executive officer of Cleco or his designee.
- 9 (15) One representative from Cox Communications.
- 10 (16) The chief executive officer of Entergy Louisiana or his designee.
- 11 (17) The general manager of the Louisiana Energy and Power Authority or his
- 12 designee.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of
14 Transportation and Development shall serve as the chair of the study group and the
15 Department of Transportation and Development shall provide staff support to assist the study
16 group in its efforts.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the names of the members designated or selected
18 as provided herein shall be submitted to the chairman of the study group on or before July
19 31, 2023.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall submit a written report of
21 its findings and proposed legislation to the House of Representatives no later than forty-five
22 days prior to the convening of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
24 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, the executive director of
25 the office of broadband development and connectivity, the chief executive officer of the
26 Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, the chief executive officer of the Cellular
27 Telecommunications Industry Association, the president of the Louisiana Association of
28 Business and Industry, the executive director of the Louisiana Internet and Television-The
29 Broadband Association, the president of the Louisiana Landowners Association, the
30 executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association, the Louisiana Railroads

1 Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Police Jury Association, the chairman
2 of the Louisiana Telecommunications Association, the Natural Resources Management
3 Association, AT&T, the chief executive officer of Cleco, Cox Communications, the general
4 manager of the Louisiana Energy and Power Authority, and the chief executive officer of
5 Entergy Louisiana.

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 155 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Deshotel

Creates a study group to study the barriers to deploying broadband across public and private property, to recommend proposed legislation to remove barriers to deployment across public and private property, and to report its findings and proposed legislation to the House of Representatives no later than 45 days prior to the convening of the 2024 R.S.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the original bill:

1. Add the Louisiana Energy and Power Authority to the study group.