

ACT No. 477

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 648

BY REPRESENTATIVE DESHOTEL AND SENATORS ABRAHAM, BERNARD, CATHEY, CLOUD, CORTEZ, FESI, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, JOHNS, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, MIZELL, MORRIS, AND PETERSON

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 44:4.1(B)(25) and to enact Part VI-C of Chapter 39 of Title 51
3 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 51:2370.1
4 through 2370.16, relative to grants for broadband expansion; to provide for the
5 establishment of the grant program; to define terms; to provide requirements for area
6 protection; to provide a procedure for application; to allow for public comment; to
7 allow for protest; to allow for judicial review of a protest decision; to provide for
8 consultation; to provide conditions for the scoring process; to require fund matching;
9 to provide requirements for compliance; to mandate forfeiture of funds for failure to
10 perform; to provide for the receipt and disbursement of federal grant funds; to
11 require reports; to allow for an administration fee; to provide prohibitions and
12 exceptions; to provide for reimbursement; to provide for promulgation of rules; to
13 provide relative to the application of the Public Records Law to certain records
14 related to the grant program; and to provide for related matters.

15 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

16 Section 1. Part VI-C of Chapter 39 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
17 1950, comprised of R.S. 51:2370.1 through 2370.16, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

18 PART VI-C. GRANTING UNSERVED MUNICIPALITIES BROADBAND

19 OPPORTUNITIES

20 §2370.1. Establishment

21 There is hereby created a grant program to be known as the "Granting
22 Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities" program, hereinafter referred to
23 as the "GUMBO" program.

1 §2370.2. Definitions2 As used in this Part, the following terms have the meaning ascribed to them:3 (1) "Agriculture" means the commercial planting, growing, harvesting,
4 production, storage, processing, marketing, distribution, or export of any agricultural
5 product, including but not limited to farm products, livestock and livestock products,
6 poultry and poultry products, milk and dairy products, fruit and other horticultural
7 products, and seafood and aquacultural products.8 (2) "Broadband service" means deployed internet access service with a
9 minimum of twenty-five megabits per second (Mbps) download and at least three
10 megabits per second upload transmission speeds.11 (3) "Cooperative" means a corporation organized under Part I of Chapter 2
12 of Title 12 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 or a corporation who becomes
13 subject to the those provisions pursuant to R.S. 12:401 et seq.14 (4) "Director" means the executive director of the office of broadband
15 development and connectivity within the division of administration.16 (5) "Economically distressed parish" means an unserved area that is in need
17 of expansion of business and industry and the creation of jobs, giving consideration
18 to unemployment, per capita income, and the number of residents receiving public
19 assistance within that unserved area.20 (6) "Eligible grant recipient" means a provider of broadband service,
21 including a provider operated by a local government if the local government is
22 compliant with the Local Government Fair Competition Act prior to July 1, 2021,
23 with respect to providing such services, a cooperative, or any partnership thereof.24 (7) "Eligible parishes" means any parish with unserved structures.25 (8) "Eligible project" means a discrete and specific project located in an
26 unserved area of an eligible parish seeking to provide broadband service to homes,
27 households, businesses, educational facilities, healthcare facilities, and community
28 anchor points not currently served. A project that is primarily engaged in middle-
29 mile, backhaul, or similar work is not an eligible project. The inclusion of middle-
30 mile, backhaul, or similar capacity is permissible in an eligible project, if the

1 capacity does not otherwise exist and is necessary for the project's last-mile
2 broadband connectivity to end users. If a contiguous project area crosses from one
3 eligible parish into one or more eligible adjacent parishes, for the purposes of this
4 Part, the project shall be deemed to be located in the parish where the greatest
5 number of unserved households are proposed to be served.

6 (9) "Household" means any individual or group of individuals who are living
7 together at the same address as one economic unit. A household may include related
8 and unrelated persons. An "economic unit" consists of all adult individuals
9 contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. An adult is
10 any person eighteen years or older. If an adult has no or minimal income, and lives
11 with someone who provides financial support to him, both people shall be considered
12 part of the same household. Children under the age of eighteen living with their
13 parents or guardians are considered to be part of the same household as their parents
14 or guardians.

15 (10) "Infrastructure" means existing facilities, equipment, materials, and
16 structures that an internet service provider has installed either for its core business
17 or public enterprise purposes. Examples include but are not limited to copper wire,
18 coaxial cable, optical cable, loose tube cable, communication huts, conduits, vaults,
19 patch panels, mounting hardware, poles, generators, batteries and cabinets, network
20 nodes, network routers, network switches, microwave relays, microwave receivers,
21 site routers, outdoor cabinets, towers, easements, rights-of-way, and buildings or
22 structures owned by the entity that are made available for location or collocation
23 purposes.

24 (11) "Infrastructure costs" means costs directly related to the construction
25 of broadband infrastructure for the extension of broadband service for an eligible
26 project, including installation, acquiring or updating easements, backhaul
27 infrastructure, and testing costs. The term does not include overhead or
28 administrative costs.

29 (12) "Local government" means a parish, municipality, or school board, or
30 any instrumentality thereof.

1 (13) "Office" means the office of broadband development and connectivity
2 within the division of administration.

3 (14) "Prospective broadband recipient" means a household, home, business,
4 educational facility, healthcare facility, community anchor point, agricultural
5 operation, or agricultural processing facility that is currently unserved and is
6 identified in an application submitted in accordance with this Part.

7 (15) "Shapefile" means a file format for storing, depicting, and analyzing
8 geospatial data depicting broadband coverage, comprised of several component files,
9 such as a Main file (.shp), an Index file, (.sbx) and a dBASE table (.dbf).

10 (16) "Unserved" means, notwithstanding any other provision of law, any
11 federal funding awarded to or allocated by the state for broadband deployment shall
12 not be used, directly or indirectly, to deploy broadband infrastructure to provide
13 broadband internet service in any area of the state where broadband internet service
14 of at least twenty-five Mbps download and three Mbps upload is available from at
15 least one internet service provider.

16 (17) "Unserved area" means a designated geographic area that is presently
17 without access to broadband service, as defined in this Section, offered by a wireline
18 or fixed wireless provider. Areas included in an application where a provider has
19 been designated to receive funds through other state or federally funded programs
20 designed specifically for broadband deployment shall be considered served if such
21 funding is intended to result in the initiation of activity related to construction of
22 broadband infrastructure in such area within twenty-four months of the expiration
23 of the sixty-day period related to such application established pursuant to R.S.
24 51:2370.4(C).

25 §2370.3. Ineligibility due to funds; submission of census block, shape file area, and
26 address data; time limitations

27 A. A provider receiving Universal Service, Connect America Phase II, Rural
28 Digital Opportunity Fund, or non-federal funds to deploy broadband service may
29 qualify the area for protection by submitting, within sixty days of the close of the
30 application period, a listing of the census blocks, shapefile areas, individual

1 addresses, or portions thereof, comprising the federally-funded project areas meeting
2 this requirement to the office.

3 B. In future program years, the deadline for submitting the census blocks,
4 shapefile areas, individual addresses, or portions thereof shall be established by the
5 office, but shall not be less than sixty days prior to the beginning date of the
6 application period. This will enable the office to update maps and advise applicants
7 as to the unserved areas of the state that are ineligible for consideration in that
8 program year.

9 C. The office shall only utilize the data to update maps of census blocks,
10 shapefile areas, individual addresses, or portions thereof and to reflect the census
11 blocks, shapefile areas, individual addresses, or portions thereof as being served.

12 D. In no instance shall an applicant be required to provide any data beyond
13 that which it is required to provide to the Federal Communications Commission
14 pursuant to The Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability
15 Act pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 641 et seq.

16 E. Failure on the part of a provider to submit the listing of census blocks,
17 shapefile areas, individual addresses, or portions thereof by the deadline shall result
18 in those areas being ineligible for exclusion under the GUMBO program during the
19 upcoming program year. A provider that has facilities in the area or that intends to
20 deploy broadband service within twenty-four months shall be able to protest
21 ineligibility.

22 F. The office shall use the provided census blocks, shapefile areas, individual
23 addresses, or portions thereof only for mapping of unserved areas.

24 G. Upon expiration of the twenty-four month reservation period described
25 in Subsection E of this Section, a provider that has received a reservation of census
26 blocks, shapefile areas, individual addresses, or portions thereof shall submit written
27 documentation by April thirtieth of the year following the program year that the
28 initiation of activity related to broadband infrastructure will or has begun in the
29 census blocks, shapefile areas, individual addresses, or portions thereof, that have

1 been deemed ineligible by the office due to the existence of a federally-funded
2 project area.

3 §2370.4. Applications; burden of proof; public comment; protest

4 A. Applications for grants shall be submitted at times designated by the
5 director and shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

6 (1) An attestation to the office that the proposed project area is eligible.

7 (2) The identity of the applicant and its qualifications and experience with
8 deployment of broadband.

9 (3) The estimated total cost and duration of the project.

10 (4) The amount to be funded by the applicant.

11 (5) An illustration or description of the area to be served, identifying the
12 number of residential and commercial locations that will have access to broadband
13 as a result of the project, including any available addresses, or other identifying
14 information satisfactory to the office, for the foregoing. In the event that the office
15 is unable to identify the proposed project area with specificity, the office may require
16 the applicant to submit additional information. If construction of the proposed
17 project would result in the provision of broadband service to areas that are not
18 eligible for funding, those ineligible areas should be identified in the application
19 along with the eligible areas.

20 (6) An assessment of the current level of broadband access in the proposed
21 deployment area.

22 (7) The proposed estimated construction timeline.

23 (8) A description of the broadband service to be provided, including the
24 proposed upstream and downstream broadband speeds to be delivered and any
25 applicable data caps.

26 (9) Any other information or supplementary documentation requested by the
27 office.

28 (10) A plan to encourage users to connect that incorporates, at a minimum,
29 multimedia advertising and marketing programs.

1 (11) For the proposed area to be served, the infrastructure cost per location
2 for the project.

3 (12) Evidence of support for the project from citizens, local government,
4 businesses, and institutions in the community.

5 (13) The proposed advertised speed to be marketed to end users, and the
6 projected cost to the consumer to utilize the service at the projected speed.

7 (14) An explanation of the scalability of the broadband infrastructure to be
8 deployed for higher broadband speeds in the future.

9 B. A provider submitting an application pursuant to this Section shall bear
10 the burden of proof that the proposed area to be served can, in fact, be served using
11 the proposed technology.

12 C.(1) Applications shall be made publicly available, subject to the
13 confidentiality protections provided in this Part, by posting on the website of the
14 office or the website of the division of administration for a period of at least sixty
15 days prior to award. During the sixty-day period, any interested party may submit
16 comments to the director concerning any pending application. Any aggrieved person
17 may submit a protest of any application or award in accordance with R.S. 51:2370.5.
18 Protests shall be submitted in writing, accompanied by all relevant supporting
19 documentation, and shall be considered by the office in connection with the review
20 of the application. Upon submission of evidence to the office that the proposed
21 project area includes prospective broadband recipients that are served, the office may
22 work with an applicant to amend an application to reduce the number of unserved
23 prospective broadband recipients in the project area to reflect an accurate level of
24 current broadband service. The office may revise application scores in accordance
25 with amended applications. The office shall not grant funds to an applicant who
26 submits an application that does not comply with program requirements. For
27 applications with filed protests, the director shall issue a written decision to the
28 protesting party at least fifteen days prior to the approval of that application.
29 Following a protest that is granted for a portion of the application, the office shall
30 release to an applicant the locations or areas declared ineligible. Any provider

1 submitting a protest shall attest that the information in the protest is accurate and that
2 the protest is submitted in good faith. The office may deny any protest or application
3 that contains inaccurate information.

4 (2) As a means of resolving a protest, the office may utilize speed tests that
5 conform to the methodology employed in the Federal Communications
6 Commission's "Measuring Broadband America" report to determine if the protested
7 area or individual households or businesses currently have access to broadband
8 service as defined in this Part. All decisions regarding the speed test to be utilized
9 and the manner by which the speed tests are applied shall be made by the director or
10 his designee.

11 (3) The office shall treat any information submitted with a protest that is not
12 publicly available as confidential and subject to the trade secrets protections of state
13 law upon a challenging provider's request for confidential treatment.

14 §2370.5. Administrative and judicial review

15 A. The director or his designee shall have authority, prior to the
16 commencement of an action in court concerning a protest arising under this Part, to
17 settle and resolve the protest of an aggrieved person concerning a grant application.
18 This authority shall be exercised in accordance with applicable regulations.

19 B. If the protest is not resolved by mutual agreement, the director or his
20 designee shall, within fourteen days, issue a decision in writing. The decision shall:

21 (1) State the reasons for the action taken.

22 (2) Inform the protestant of its right to administrative and judicial review as
23 provided in this Part.

24 C. A copy of the decision required by Subsection B of this Section shall be
25 mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the protestant and any other party
26 intervening.

27 D. A decision required by Subsection B of this Section shall be final and
28 conclusive unless one of the following applies:

29 (1) The decision is fraudulent.

1 (2) The person adversely affected by the decision has timely appealed to the
 2 commissioner of administration in accordance with Subsection E of this Section.

3 E. The aggrieved person shall file an appeal with the commissioner of
 4 administration within fifteen days of receipt of a decision issued pursuant to
 5 Subsection B of this Section. The commissioner of administration shall have the
 6 authority to review and determine any appeal by an aggrieved person from a
 7 determination by the director or his designee.

8 F. On any appeal filed pursuant to Subsection E of this Section, the
 9 commissioner shall decide within fourteen days whether the decision concerning a
 10 grant application was in accordance with this state's constitution, statutes, and
 11 regulations, and the terms and conditions of the application. Any prior
 12 determinations by the director or his designee shall not be final or conclusive.

13 G. A copy of the decision issued pursuant to Subsection F of this Section
 14 shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the protestant and any other
 15 party intervening.

16 H. A decision issued pursuant to Subsection F of this Section shall be final
 17 and conclusive unless one of the following applies:

- 18 (1) The decision is fraudulent.
 19 (2) The person adversely affected by the decision has appealed to the court
 20 as provided for in Subsection I of this Section.

21 I. The aggrieved person shall file an appeal in the Nineteenth Judicial
 22 District Court within seven days of receipt of a decision issued pursuant to
 23 Subsection F of this Section. The Nineteenth Judicial District Court shall have
 24 exclusive venue over an action between the state and an applicant, prospective or
 25 actual, to determine whether an award of a grant is in accordance with this state's
 26 constitution, statutes, and regulations. Such actions shall extend to all kinds of
 27 actions, whether for monetary damages or for declaratory, injunctive, or other
 28 equitable relief.

29 J. Any party aggrieved by a final judgment or interlocutory order or ruling
 30 of the Nineteenth Judicial District Court may appeal or seek review thereof, as the

1 case may be, to the Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit or the Supreme Court
 2 of Louisiana, as otherwise permitted in civil cases by law and the constitution of this
 3 state.

4 §2370.6. Consultation

5 The office may consult with the Louisiana Department of Economic
 6 Development to determine if a broadband project proposed under this Part will
 7 benefit a potential economic development project relevant to the proposed area
 8 outlined in the broadband project.

9 §2370.7. Scoring

10 A. Applications shall be scored based upon a system that awards a single
 11 point for criteria considered to be the minimum level for the provision of broadband
 12 service with additional points awarded to criteria that exceed minimum levels. The
 13 office shall develop a scoring system in accordance with the following:

14 (1) The office shall give additional points based upon the experience,
 15 technical ability, and financial wherewithal of the applicant in successfully deploying
 16 and providing broadband service, as well as the proposed amount of matching funds
 17 committed by the applicant relative to the minimum required amount of twenty
 18 percent.

19 (2) The office shall give additional points to applicants that provide a letter
 20 of support from local government.

21 (3) The office shall give additional points to projects based upon the
 22 estimated number of unserved households within the eligible economically distressed
 23 parish, as determined by the most recent data published by the Federal
 24 Communications Commission or any other information available to the office.

25 (4) The office shall give additional points to projects that will provide
 26 broadband service based upon the percentage of the total unserved households within
 27 the eligible economically distressed parish that the project will serve. The number
 28 of unserved households shall be determined using the most recent data published by
 29 the Federal Communications Commission or any other information available to the
 30 office.

1 (5) The office shall give additional points to projects that will provide
 2 broadband service to unserved businesses located within the eligible economically
 3 distressed parish, as determined by the most recent data published by the Federal
 4 Communications Commission or any other information available to the office.

5 (6) The office shall give additional points based upon the applicant's ability
 6 to leverage its own or nearby or adjacent broadband service infrastructure in the
 7 proposed project area, and shall consider the ultimate price to the consumer in
 8 awarding points.

9 (7) The office shall give additional points to projects receiving funding or
 10 in-kind contributions from local government for eligible projects within the
 11 jurisdiction of the local government.

12 (8) The office shall give additional points to projects in which the eligible
 13 grant recipient is a small business entrepreneurship certified by the Hudson
 14 Initiative, R.S. 39:2001 et seq., or the Veteran Initiative, R.S. 39:2171 et seq., in
 15 accordance with rules promulgated by the office.

16 (9) The office shall give additional points to projects in which the eligible
 17 grant recipient commits to a good faith subcontracting plan to contract with or
 18 employ a small business entrepreneurship certified by the Hudson Initiative, R.S.
 19 39:2001 et seq., or the Veteran Initiative, R.S. 39:2171 et seq., to substantially
 20 participate in the performance of the project, in accordance with rules promulgated
 21 by the office.

22 (10) The office shall not consider the format of mapping data provided by
 23 a broadband provider evaluating a grant proposal.

24 §2370.8. Funding; match requirement

25 A. Grant recipients are required to provide matching funds in accordance
 26 with rules promulgated by the office. A grant recipient shall contribute from its own
 27 funds a minimum of twenty percent of the total estimated cost of the project.

28 B.(1) A local government may contribute funding or in-kind contributions
 29 for use on an eligible project under the provisions of this Part. The contribution of
 30 funding by local government for an eligible project under the provisions of this Part

1 shall not be considered a partnership for providing a covered service under the Local
2 Government Fair Competition Act.

3 (2) A local government shall not make or grant any undue or unreasonable
4 preference or advantage to itself or to any provider of broadband service.

5 (3) A local government shall apply without discrimination as to itself and to
6 any provider the local government's ordinances, rules, and policies, including those
7 relating to obligation to serve, access to public right of way, permitting, performance
8 bonding, reporting, and quality of service.

9 §2370.9. Compliance during the agreement

10 The office shall require that grant recipients offer the proposed advertised
11 minimum download and minimum upload speeds of twenty-five Mbps download and
12 three Mbps upload. Grant recipients that have offered broadband service to at least
13 one thousand consumers for a period of at least five consecutive years shall offer
14 broadband service at prices consistent with offers to consumers in other areas of the
15 state. Any other broadband provider shall ensure that the broadband service is priced
16 to consumers at no more than the cost rate identified in the project application, for
17 the duration of the five-year service agreement. In calculating cost, the recipient
18 may adjust annually, consistent with the annual percentage increase in the Consumer
19 Price Index in the preceding year. At least annually, a grant recipient shall provide
20 to the office evidence consistent with Federal Communications Commission
21 attestation that the grant recipient is making available the proposed advertised speed,
22 or a faster speed, as contained in the grant agreement. For the duration of the
23 agreement, grant recipients shall disclose any changes to data caps.

24 §2370.10. Failure to perform

25 A. A grant recipient shall forfeit the amount of the grant received if it fails
26 to perform, in material respect, the obligations established in the agreement. Grant
27 recipients that fail to provide the minimum advertised connection speed and cost at
28 the advertised rate shall forfeit any matching funds, up to the entire amount received
29 through the GUMBO program. The office shall use its discretion to determine the
30 amount forfeited. A grant recipient that forfeits amounts disbursed under this Part

1 is liable for up to the amount disbursed plus interest. The number of subscribers that
2 subscribe to broadband services offered by the provider in the project area shall not
3 be a measure of performance under the agreement for the purposes of this
4 Subsection.

5 B. A grant recipient shall not be required to forfeit the amount of the grant
6 received if it fails to perform due to a natural disaster, an act of God, force majeure,
7 a catastrophe, pandemic, or such other occurrence over which the grant recipient has
8 no control.

9 C. Except as provided for in Subsection B of this Section, if a grant recipient
10 fails to perform and fails to return the full forfeited amount required pursuant to this
11 Section, the ownership and use of the broadband infrastructure funded by the
12 GUMBO program shall revert to the division of administration.

13 §2370.11. Receipt and disbursement of federal grant funds

14 The division of administration shall be the designated agency for receipt and
15 disbursement of state and federal funds intended for the state for broadband
16 expansion or allocated by the state for broadband expansion and shall seek available
17 federal grant funds for that purpose. All federal grant funds received for the purpose
18 of broadband expansion shall be disbursed in accordance with this Part.

19 §2370.12. Reporting requirements

20 A. Grant recipients shall submit to the office an annual report for each
21 funded project for the duration of the agreement. The report shall include a summary
22 of the items contained in the grant agreement and shall also include all of the
23 following:

24 (1) The number of residential and commercial locations that have broadband
25 access as a result of the project.

26 (2) The percentage of end users in the project area who have access to
27 broadband service and the percentage of those with access who actually subscribe
28 to the broadband service.

1 (3) The average monthly subscription rate for residential and commercial
2 broadband service in the project area.

3 (4) Any right-of-way fees or permit fees paid to local government, state
4 government, railroad, private entity or person during the fulfillment of the grant
5 awarded pursuant to this Part.

6 (5) Any delays encountered when obtaining a right-of-way permission.

7 B. The office shall submit an annual report to the House Committee on
8 Commerce, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and
9 International Affairs, and the Joint Legislative Committee on Technology and
10 Cybersecurity on or before September thirtieth of each calendar year. The report
11 shall contain all of the following:

12 (1) The number of grant projects applied for and the number of grant
13 agreements entered into.

14 (2) A timeline for each grant agreement and the number of households,
15 businesses, agriculture operations, and community anchor points expected to benefit
16 from each agreement.

17 (3) The amount of matching funds required for each agreement and the total
18 amount of investment.

19 (4) A summary of areas receiving grants that are now being provided
20 broadband service and the advertised broadband speeds and corresponding costs for
21 those areas.

22 (5) Any breaches of agreements, grant fund forfeitures, or subsequent
23 reductions or refunds of matching funds.

24 (6) Any recommendations for the GUMBO program, including better
25 sources and methods for improving outcomes and accountability.

26 §2370.13. Administration fee

27 The office may use up to one percent of the appropriated funds to administer
28 the GUMBO program.

1 §2370.14. Rules

2 A. The office shall promulgate rules necessary to carry out the provisions of
 3 this Part in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

4 B. In administering the program, the office shall not include consideration
 5 of any new or additional regulatory obligations beyond those provided in this Part
 6 and any other applicable law.

7 C. Grants solicited and awarded pursuant to the GUMBO program shall not
 8 be subject to the provisions of the Louisiana Procurement Code, R.S. 39:1551 et seq.
 9 or the Public Bid Law, R.S. 38:2181 et seq. The office shall devise and implement
 10 alternate procurement methods to identify and award on the basis of best value,
 11 soliciting applications and scoring product features, cost, and technical factors in
 12 accordance with this Part.

13 §2370.15. Reimbursement for grantees

14 Initial funding of ten percent shall be distributed to a grantee once the grantee
 15 has demonstrated that ten percent of the project has been completed. Thereafter,
 16 payments shall be distributed as follows: thirty-five percent completion, sixty percent
 17 completion, eighty-five percent completion, and the final fifteen percent payment
 18 shall not be paid without an approved completion report. Invoice for final payment
 19 shall be submitted within ninety days of completion date. All invoices are subject
 20 to audit for three years from the completion date.

21 §2370.16. Records; limitations

22 Notwithstanding any provision of this Part to the contrary, all records related
 23 to the GUMBO program shall be public records as provided by the Public Records
 24 Law, except the following:

25 (1) A provider's trade secret and proprietary information, including coverage
 26 data, maps, and shapefiles.

27 (2) Information regarding unserved coverage areas not yet awarded or
 28 announced.

29 (3) Applications pending evaluation.

1 Section 2. R.S. 44:4.1(B)(25) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

2 §4.1. Exceptions

3 * * *

4 B. The legislature further recognizes that there exist exceptions, exemptions,
5 and limitations to the laws pertaining to public records throughout the revised
6 statutes and codes of this state. Therefore, the following exceptions, exemptions, and
7 limitations are hereby continued in effect by incorporation into this Chapter by
8 citation:

9 * * *

10 (25) R.S. ~~39:294~~, 1435, 2370.16

11 * * *

12 Section 3. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2021; if vetoed by the governor
13 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,
14 2021, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____