SLS 24RS-101

ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY SENATOR MIZELL

CONGRESS. Memorializes Congress to support the extension of funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) of 2021, which provides Louisiana residents access to broadband services.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To memorialize Congress of the United States to support the extension of funding for the
3	Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) of 2021, which provides Louisiana
4	residents access to broadband services.
5	WHEREAS, on August 29, 2019, by executive order, Governor John Bel Edwards
6	created the Broadband for Everyone in Louisiana Commission which facilitates private
7	sector providers, public entities, and other broadband stakeholders to improve both the
8	adoption and availability of broadband service for Louisiana residents by providing universal
9	access to broadband service; and
10	WHEREAS, during the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session of the Legislature of
11	Louisiana, the office of broadband and connectivity was created within the governor's office
12	to promote and encourage broadband adoption for households in an effort to eliminate the
13	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 to
16	reach 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

1	appropriated more than fourteen billion dollars for the ACP; and
2	WHEREAS, Congress assigned the Federal Communications Commission to
3	administer the ACP, the successor program to the Emergency Broadband Benefit, which
4	helped almost nine million households afford internet access during the pandemic; and
5	WHEREAS, under the ACP, eligible households can receive a discount of up to
6	thirty dollars per month for internet services and up to seventy-five dollars per month for
7	households on qualifying tribal lands; and
8	WHEREAS, eligible households may also receive a one-time discount of up to one
9	hundred dollars to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating
10	providers; and
11	WHEREAS, Louisiana was the first state to receive broadband award approval from
12	the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and is number one in the nation for
13	ACP enrollment with an estimated forty-six percent of eligible households enrolled; and
14	WHEREAS, currently, there are more than nine hundred thousand eligible
15	households within the state that may qualify for the ACP and four hundred twenty-two
16	thousand two hundred fifty-seven households that have enrolled; and
17	WHEREAS, based on current take rates, more than fourteen billion dollars in funding
18	appropriated for the ACP program could be exhausted in late 2023 or early 2024; and
19	WHEREAS, the ACP has been a critical tool in helping bridge the digital divide that
20	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 memorializes
23	the Congress of the United States to support continued funding of the ACP so that
24	low-income Louisiana households can continue to receive the support they need to
25	participate in the digital marketplace.
26	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
27	secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of
28	Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation to the United
29	States Congress.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Xavier I. Alexander.

SCR 4 Original

DIGEST 2024 Regular Session

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