

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 327

BY REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the office of broadband development and connectivity to provide quarterly reports on the implementation, performance, and rural coverage of broadband infrastructure projects funded through state and federal programs, and to identify any service gaps, delays, or deficiencies in rural delivery.

WHEREAS, broadband internet access is an essential utility for participation in modern economic, educational, and healthcare systems, especially in rural areas of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the state has committed significant public resources, including funding through the Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO) program and other federal broadband initiatives, to address internet access disparities; and

WHEREAS, many rural households and businesses continue to report unreliable, delayed, or absent service, indicating possible implementation or oversight issues in broadband expansion projects; and

WHEREAS, transparency and legislative oversight are necessary to ensure that broadband infrastructure projects are implemented equitably and effectively, especially in underserved and unserved rural areas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of broadband development and connectivity to submit quarterly reports to the House Committee on Commerce and the House Committee on Appropriations, beginning no later than September 1, 2025, and continuing quarterly through December 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such reports shall include all of the following:

(1) A list of all broadband infrastructure projects underway or completed, including geographic location and implementation timelines.

(2) The percentage of rural households and businesses connected or serviced by each project.

(3) Any challenges, delays, or barriers to completion, including permitting, labor, or technical issues.

(4) A list of grant recipients and contractors with details on performance metrics, compliance with contract terms, and any enforcement actions taken.

(5) Recommendations for improving service to the most remote or hard-to-reach areas of the state.

(6) An assessment of whether underserved or unserved areas are being bypassed or deprioritized.

(7) A list of all consultant and vendor payments made by the office of broadband development and connectivity, including a description of the work performed by each consultant or vendor, amounts owed, and amounts paid to date.

(8) A list of all payments made by the office of broadband development and connectivity to grant recipients, including amounts owed, amounts paid to date, expected payment timelines, and any payment delays longer than fifteen days.

(9) A detailed accounting of all broadband program funds expended, including administrative costs, expenditures related to the STRIKE System for Utility Management or any similar programs, and a statement of whether the office received approval, or plans to seek approval, under R.S. 51:1363.1(E) for the use of any such funds.

(10) A detailed accounting of all broadband program funds that remain unexpended as of June 1, 2025.

(11) A detailed accounting of all funds that are, or have been, eligible for expenditure under R.S. 51:2370.19, including how such funds have been spent to date or are planned to be spent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the office of broadband development and connectivity.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES