

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 80

BY SENATOR MIZELL

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

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 51:2370.13, 2370.15, 2370.32(B), 2370.41, and 2370.51 and to
3 enact R.S. 51:1362.1, relative to the regulation of certain broadband services; to
4 provide for the oversight and enforcement authority of the office of broadband
5 development and connectivity; to provide for administration fees; to provide for
6 reimbursement of grantees; to provide for grants; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 51:2370.13, 2370.15, 2370.32(B), 2370.41, and 2370.51 are hereby
9 amended and reenacted and R.S. 51:1362.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 **§1362.1. Oversight and enforcement authority by the office of broadband**
11 **development and connectivity**

12 **A. The office of broadband development and connectivity has exclusive**
13 **authority to do all of the following:**

14 **(1) Develop rules and standards to govern the implementation,**
15 **performance, and compliance of all broadband programs, including GUMBO**
16 **1.0, GUMBO 2.0, GUMBO 3.0, GUMBO 4.0, and any future broadband**
17 **initiatives.**

1 §2370.15. Reimbursement for grantees

2 Initial funding of ten percent shall be distributed to a grantee once the grantee
3 has demonstrated that ten percent of the project has been completed. ~~Thereafter,~~
4 ~~payments shall be distributed as follows: thirty-five percent completion, sixty percent~~
5 ~~completion, eighty-five percent completion, and the final fifteen percent~~ **The office**
6 **may determine the thresholds of completion for the remaining disbursements**
7 **and promulgate appropriate rules.** The final payment shall not be paid without
8 an approved completion report. Invoice for final payment shall be submitted within
9 ninety days of completion date. All invoices are subject to audit for three years from
10 the completion date.

11 * * *

12 §2370.32. Reimbursement for grantees

13 * * *

14 B. Except as provided in Subsection C of this Section, the next ten percent
15 of the subgrant award shall be provided based on provider certification and the
16 office's verification that ten percent of the eligible locations have been reached. ~~The~~
17 ~~remaining disbursements shall be given at the thresholds of completion of thirty-five~~
18 ~~percent, sixty percent, eighty-five percent, and one hundred percent.~~ **The office may**
19 **determine the thresholds of completion for the remaining disbursements which**
20 **shall be defined in the GUMBO 2.0 subgrant agreement.** The final disbursement
21 for one hundred percent completion shall be given only after verification of one
22 hundred percent deployment to eligible locations, within the mandatory forty-eight-
23 month maximum deadline, which may be extended up to a year by the office or
24 another shorter timeline certified by the applicant. The office shall disburse funds
25 only for completed deployments that comply with the terms included in the
26 successful application and shall withhold funds for failure to do so.

27 * * *

28 §2370.41. GUMBO 3.0

29 **A.** In the event that there are remaining GUMBO 2.0 funds after the

1 obligation of infrastructure funds, the office shall run a grant program,
2 nondeployment, that will allow eligible parties including but not limited to state
3 agencies, nonprofits, for-profits, academic institutions, and planning commissions
4 to utilize these funds to help address challenges in economic development, workforce
5 development, health care, cybersecurity, agriculture, and other sectors and industries
6 of importance to the state of Louisiana, as determined by approval of Volume 2 of
7 Initial Proposal from the office and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or
8 IJA, the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment, or BEAD, Program, and the
9 Notice of Funding Opportunity, or NOFO, with an obligation deadline of these funds
10 to be completed no later than December 12, 2024. This program will be designated
11 as "Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities 3.0", and the office
12 shall have the authority to create appropriate rules and scoring criteria.

13 **B. Grants solicited and awarded pursuant to the GUMBO 3.0 program**
14 **are subject to the provisions of the Louisiana Procurement Code, R.S. 39:1551**
15 **et seq., or the Public Bid Law, R.S. 38:2181 et seq. Alternative procurement**
16 **methods consistent with the requirements defined by the assistant secretary of**
17 **the United States Department of Commerce for Communications and**
18 **Information may be used to solicit and award grants pursuant to the GUMBO**
19 **3.0 program if determined in writing by the commissioner of administration to**
20 **be in the best interest of the state. The office may promulgate rules that are**
21 **consistent with the requirements promulgated by the assistant secretary**
22 **pursuant to the IJA, BEAD program guidelines, state law, and this Subpart.**
23 §2370.51. GUMBO 4.0

24 **A.** The office shall have the authority to develop the rules, scoring criteria,
25 and eligibility in the execution of the State's First Digital Opportunity Plan, pending
26 approval from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration,
27 a Sub-Agency of the United States Department of Commerce. Eligible parties shall
28 include but not be limited to state agencies, nonprofits, for-profits, academic
29 institutions, and planning commissions. This program will be designated as

1 "Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities 4.0".

2 **B. Grants solicited and awarded pursuant to the GUMBO 4.0 program**
 3 **are subject to the provisions of the Louisiana Procurement Code, R.S. 39:1551**
 4 **et seq., or the Public Bid Law, R.S. 38:2181 et seq. Alternative procurement**
 5 **methods consistent with the requirements defined by the assistant secretary of**
 6 **the United States Department of Commerce for Communications and**
 7 **Information may be used to solicit and award grants pursuant to the GUMBO**
 8 **4.0 program if determined in writing by the commissioner of administration to**
 9 **be in the best interest of the state. The office may promulgate rules that are**
 10 **consistent with requirements promulgated by the assistant secretary pursuant**
 11 **to the IIJA, BEAD program guidelines, state law, and this Subpart.**

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 80 Original

2026 Regular Session

Mizell

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

Proposed law provides for the oversight and enforcement authority by the office of broadband development and connectivity.

Proposed law provides for the applicability of proposed law.

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 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 program from 1% to 2.5%.

Present law provides the initial funding of ten percent shall be distributed to a GUMBO 1.0 grantee once the grantee has demonstrated that 10% of the project has been completed. Provides that payments shall be then distributed as follows: 35% completion, 60% completion, 85% completion, and the final 15% payment shall not be paid without an approved completion report.

Proposed law amends present law to provide that after the initial funding of 10%, the office may determine the thresholds of completion for the remaining disbursements and promulgate

appropriate rules. Requires the final payment not be paid without an approved completion report.

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 amends present law to provide that the office may determine the thresholds of completion for the remaining disbursements which shall be defined in the GUMBO 2.0 subgrant agreement.

Present law creates the GUMBO 3.0 program.

Proposed law provides for grants administered under the GUMBO 3.0 program.

Present law creates the GUMBO 4.0 program.

Proposed law provides for grants administered under the GUMBO 4.0 program.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 51:2370.13, 2370.15, 2370.32(B), 2370.41, and 2370.51; adds R.S. 51:1362.1)