HLS 202ES-107 ENGROSSED

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

1

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON

UTILITIES: Provides relative to rural internet service (Item #67)

2	To establish the Task Force on the 4.9 GHz Spectrum to study and make recommendations
3	on how to close the digital divide and allocate the 4.9 GHz spectrum should it
4	become available in Louisiana and to submit a written report of its findings and
5	recommendations to the legislature no later than February 1, 2021.
6	WHEREAS, internet connectivity is more important than ever before in light of
7	students attending school virtually, patients using telemedicine to talk to their doctors, and
8	businesses conducting sales online; and
9	WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently
10	considering a rule which would allow the state to allocate 50 MHz of the 4.9 GHz spectrum;
11	and
12	WHEREAS, due to the properties of the 4.9 GHz band of spectrum, it is especially
13	well-suited to provide internet connectivity to those who currently have no or few options;
14	and
15	WHEREAS, rural wireless broadband providers have expressed to the FCC that they
16	would be interested in using this spectrum to close the digital divide; and
17	WHEREAS, it is imperative that Louisiana be well-positioned to take advantage of
18	this spectrum to close the digital divide should it become available.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
2	establish the Task Force on the 4.9 GHz Spectrum to study and make recommendations
3	regarding how to allocate the 4.9 GHz spectrum to close the digital divide should it become
4	available in the state of Louisiana.
5	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the
6	following members:
7	(1) The governor or his designee.
8	(2) The speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee.
9	(3) The president of the Senate or his designee.
10	(4) The chairman of the House Committee on Commerce or his designee.
11	(5) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and
12	International Affairs or his designee.
13	(6) A representative of the Louisiana State Troopers Association.
14	(7) A representative of Louisiana Economic Development.
15	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting such study, the task force should
16	reach out to the Office of the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission for
17	advice and guidance on the bidding process to allocate the 4.9 GHz spectrum so it can
18	connect as many Louisianans as possible.
19	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of this task force shall serve without
20	compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be individually
21	entitled as members of the constituent organizations.
22	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the names of the members selected to serve on
23	the task force shall be submitted to the speaker of the House of Representatives no later than
24	November 15, 2020.
25	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall hold its first meeting no later
26	than December 1, 2020.
27	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may conduct such meetings at
28	such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully its powers
29	and duties.

- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall make a report of its findings
- 2 and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, to the legislature
- 3 no later than February 1, 2021, at which time the task force shall cease to exist.
- 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit one print copy and
- 5 one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution to the David R.
- 6 Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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)]

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Mike Johnson

Creates the Task Force on the 4.9 GHz Spectrum to study and make recommendations on how to allocate the 4.9 GHz spectrum to connect as many Louisianans as possible and close the digital divide and to provide a written report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than Feb. 1, 2021.