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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Ridge.

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DIGEST

SB 61 Engrossed

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Mizell

Proposed law creates the office of broadband and connectivity (office) within the office of the governor.

Proposed law provides for the governor's appointment of an executive director to head the office. The appointment shall be made from a list of three candidates nominated by the Joint Legislative Committee on Technology and Cybersecurity (joint committee).

Proposed law provides that any vacancy in the office shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

Proposed law requires the governor to give written notice to the joint committee upon termination of the executive director. No written notice is required if the executive director is terminated for gross negligence or willful misconduct.

Proposed law requires the executive director to employ necessary staff to carry out the duties and functions of the office.

Proposed law requires the executive director to submit an annual report to the legislature containing, at a minimum, information relating to the activities of the office, data concerning broadband or other connectivity services in the state, current availability and accessibility of broadband and other connectivity services, a mapping initiative, availability of grants for the expansion of broadband and connectivity services, proposed legislation, and resources to assist the office.

Proposed law requires the governor to direct all state agencies to assist the office in advancing the purpose of the office and to assure that the activities of the office are fully coordinated with the activities of state agencies providing related services.

Proposed law provides for the powers, duties, and functions of the office and the ability of the office to enter into any contract to carry about the provisions of proposed law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 36:4(CC), R.S. 49:968(B)(21)(d), and R.S. 51:1361-1364)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the original bill

1. Removes requirement of concurrence of the Joint Legislative Committee on Technology and Cybersecurity to terminate the executive director and instead requires the governor provide written notice of the termination to the joint committee under certain circumstances.
2. Adds additional duties to the office of broadband and connectivity.
3. Makes technical corrections.