HLS 202ES-107 ORIGINAL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

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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 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 4.9 GHz band
11	spectrum; 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.
19	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
20	establish the Task Force on the 4.9 GHz Spectrum to study and make recommendations

1 regarding how to allocate the 4.9 GHz spectrum to close the digital divide should it become 2 available in the state of Louisiana. 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the 4 following members: 5 (1) The governor or his designee. 6 (2) The speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee. 7 (3) The president of the Senate or his designee. 8 (4) The chairman of the House Committee on Commerce or his designee. 9 (5) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and 10 International Affairs or his designee. 11 (6) A representative of the Louisiana State Troopers Association. 12 (7) A representative of Louisiana Economic Development. 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting such study, the task force should 14 reach out to the Office of the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission for 15 advice and guidance on the bidding process to allocate the 4.9 GHz spectrum so it can 16 connect as many Louisianans as possible. 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of this task force shall serve without 18 compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be individually 19 entitled as members of the constituent organizations. 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the names of the members selected to serve on 21 the task force shall be submitted to the speaker of the House of Representatives no later than 22 November 15, 2020. 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall hold its first meeting no later 24 than December 1, 2020. 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may conduct such meetings at 26 such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully its power 27 and duties. 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall make a report of its findings 29 and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, to the legislature 30 no later than February 1, 2021, at which time the task force shall cease to exist.

- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit one print copy and
- 2 one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution to the David R.
- 3 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)]

HCR 19 Original

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

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.