

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HOUX.

5338H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, the Office of Broadband Development was established in 2018 as a
2 partnership between the Department of Economic Development and the Department of
3 Agriculture to build and strengthen partnerships between public and private stakeholders and
4 align efforts statewide to improve broadband access; and

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6 **WHEREAS**, the Office of Broadband Development is focused on addressing
7 broadband availability and noninfrastructure barriers to full participation in the digital
8 economy in Missouri by working with providers, communities, and stakeholders to expand
9 and accelerate broadband deployment across the state; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, as part of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
12 Act's historic investment in broadband infrastructure and digital equity, Congress
13 appropriated more than fourteen billion dollars for the Affordable Connectivity Program; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, Congress assigned the Federal Communications Commission to
16 administer the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), the successor program to the
17 Emergency Broadband Benefit, which helped almost nine million households afford internet
18 access during the pandemic; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, under the ACP, eligible households can receive a discount of up to thirty
21 dollars per month toward internet services and up to seventy-five dollars per month for
22 households on qualifying tribal lands; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, eligible households may also receive a one-time discount of up to one
25 hundred dollars to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating
26 providers; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, currently there are more than four hundred thousand eligible households
29 within the state of Missouri that may qualify for the ACP; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, based on current take rates, the more than fourteen billion dollars in
32 funding appropriated for the ACP could be exhausted in the spring of 2024; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, the ACP has been a critical tool in helping bridge the "digital divide"
35 that exists between those who have access to modern information and communications
36 technology and those who do not:

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38 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
39 Representatives of the One Hundred Second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the
40 Senate concurring therein, hereby urge each member of the Missouri congressional delegation
41 to support continued funding of the ACP so that low-income Missourians can continue to
42 receive the support they need to participate in the digital marketplace; and

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44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
45 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for
46 Speaker of the House of Representatives Mike Johnson, Senate Majority Leader Chuck
47 Schumer, and the members of the Missouri congressional delegation.

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