

Regular Session, 2003

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 91

BY SENATOR ELLINGTON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To request the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to meet and function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations with respect to solving problems of high-speed Internet access in Louisiana's rural communities.

WHEREAS, access to computers and the Internet, along with the ability to effectively use these technologies, are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, political, and social life; and

WHEREAS, high-speed Internet access is a key competitive factor for economic development and quality of life in the new economy for the global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, in the digital age, universal connectivity is becoming a necessity for business transactions, education and training, health care, government services, and the democratic process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to meet and function as a joint committee to identify the availability of Internet access in Louisiana's rural communities and to study issues and make recommendations

related to solving any problems encountered with providing reliable Internet access to Louisiana's rural communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall specifically solicit the input, recommendations, and advice of the following:

- (a) The governor.
- (b) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development.
- (c) The chief information officer of the state.
- (d) The commissioner of higher education.
- (e) The Louisiana Public Service Commission.
- (f) The Louisiana Municipal Association.
- (g) A representative designated by the regional planning organizations from the eight planning districts of Louisiana.
- (h) A representative designated by local telephone exchange carriers.
- (i) A representative designated by satellite or wireless communications companies.
- (j) The Louisiana Cable and Telecommunications Association.
- (k) A representative designated by businesses located in rural areas that utilize advanced telecommunication and information services or need such services to further develop their businesses.
- (l) The Police Jury Association.
- (m) The Louisiana Chapter of the International Electrical and Engineering Society.
- (n) The Louisiana Press Association.
- (o) A representative designated by the president of Tulane University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall conduct such research, meetings, and hearings as it deems appropriate and shall compile its findings and recommendations in a report which shall be submitted

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to the Louisiana Legislature, the office of the governor, and the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation prior to the convening of the next regular session, together with any proposals for recommended legislation to facilitate and further the goals of providing rural Internet access.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES