

By: Price, Anderson, Cyrier,
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H.B. No. 1960

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1960:

By: Parker

C.S.H.B. No. 1960

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the governor's broadband development council.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle F, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 490H to read as follows:

CHAPTER 490H. GOVERNOR'S BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Sec. 490H.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Broadband" means a service that provides advanced telecommunications capability and Internet access.

(2) "Council" means the governor's broadband development council.

(3) "Unserved area" means a census block without access to broadband capable of providing:

(A) a download speed of at least 25 megabits per second; and

(B) an upload speed of at least three megabits per second.

Sec. 490H.002. COMPOSITION. (a) The council is composed of the following 17 voting members:

(1) two representatives of unaffiliated Internet service providers, appointed by the governor;

(2) one representative of the health information technology industry, appointed by the governor;

1 (3) two representatives of unaffiliated nonprofit
2 organizations that advocate for elderly persons statewide,
3 appointed by the governor;

4 (4) two representatives of unaffiliated nonprofit
5 organizations that have a demonstrated history of working with the
6 legislature and the public to identify solutions for expanding
7 broadband to rural, unserved areas of this state, appointed by the
8 governor;

9 (5) one representative of an agricultural advocacy
10 organization in this state, appointed by the governor;

11 (6) one representative of a hospital advocacy
12 organization in this state, appointed by the governor;

13 (7) one representative of a medical advocacy
14 organization in this state, appointed by the governor;

15 (8) one county official who serves in an elected
16 office of a county with a population of less than 35,000, appointed
17 by the governor;

18 (9) one municipal official who serves in an elected
19 office of a municipality with a population of less than 20,000
20 located in a county with a population of less than 60,000, appointed
21 by the governor;

22 (10) one representative of an institution of higher
23 education that has its main campus in a county with a population of
24 less than 60,000, appointed by the governor;

25 (11) one representative of a school district with a
26 territory that includes only counties with a population of less
27 than 60,000, appointed by the governor;

1 (12) one representative from a library association,
2 appointed by the governor;

3 (13) one member of the house of representatives,
4 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

5 (14) one state senator, appointed by the lieutenant
6 governor.

7 (b) A member of the council appointed under Subsection (a)
8 serves for a five-year term.

9 (c) A vacancy on the council is filled in the same manner as
10 the original appointment.

11 Sec. 490H.003. COUNCIL PRESIDING OFFICER. The governor
12 shall designate the presiding officer of the council.

13 Sec. 490H.004. MEETINGS. (a) The council shall convene at
14 least once every quarter.

15 (b) The council shall convene at the call of the presiding
16 officer.

17 Sec. 490H.005. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The office of the
18 governor shall provide administrative support to the council.

19 Sec. 490H.006. DUTIES. (a) The council shall:

20 (1) research the progress of broadband development in
21 unserved areas;

22 (2) identify barriers to residential and commercial
23 broadband deployment in unserved areas;

24 (3) study technology-neutral solutions to overcome
25 barriers identified under Subdivision (2); and

26 (4) analyze how statewide access to broadband would
27 benefit:

1 (A) economic development;

2 (B) the delivery of educational opportunities in
3 higher education and public education;

4 (C) state and local law enforcement;

5 (D) state emergency preparedness; and

6 (E) the delivery of health care services,
7 including telemedicine and telehealth.

8 (b) The council may research another matter related to
9 broadband only if a majority of the council approves researching
10 the matter.

11 (c) For the purpose of performing its duties under this
12 section, the council may consult with a representative of an
13 institution of higher education who has published scholarly
14 research on broadband.

15 Sec. 490H.007. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than November 1 of
16 each year, the council shall prepare and deliver an electronic
17 report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, the
18 lieutenant governor, and each member of the legislature.

19 Sec. 490H.008. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires September
20 1, 2029.

21 SECTION 2. The first report described by Section 490H.007,
22 Government Code, as added by this Act, is due November 1, 2020.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.