

1-1 By: Price, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Perry) H.B. No. 1960
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 23, 2019;
 1-3 April 24, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Business & Commerce; May 3, 2019, reported adversely, with
 1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9,
 1-6 Nays 0; May 3, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 1960 By: Nichols

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the creation of the governor's broadband development
 1-22 council.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Subtitle F, Title 4, Government Code, is amended
 1-25 by adding Chapter 490H to read as follows:

1-26 CHAPTER 490H. GOVERNOR'S BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

1-27 Sec. 490H.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

1-28 (1) "Broadband" means a service that provides advanced
 1-29 telecommunications capability and Internet access.

1-30 (2) "Council" means the governor's broadband
 1-31 development council.

1-32 (3) "Unserved area" means a census block without
 1-33 access to broadband capable of providing:

1-34 (A) a download speed of at least 25 megabits per
 1-35 second; and

1-36 (B) an upload speed of at least three megabits
 1-37 per second.

1-38 Sec. 490H.002. COMPOSITION. (a) The council is composed of
 1-39 the following 17 voting members:

1-40 (1) two representatives of separate Internet service
 1-41 provider industry associations, including at least one
 1-42 representative of an association that primarily represents small
 1-43 providers, as defined by Section 56.032, Utilities Code, appointed
 1-44 by the governor;

1-45 (2) one representative of the health information
 1-46 technology industry, appointed by the governor;

1-47 (3) two representatives of unaffiliated nonprofit
 1-48 organizations that advocate for elderly persons statewide,
 1-49 appointed by the governor;

1-50 (4) two representatives of unaffiliated nonprofit
 1-51 organizations that have a demonstrated history of working with the
 1-52 legislature and the public to identify solutions for expanding
 1-53 broadband to rural, unserved areas of this state, appointed by the
 1-54 governor;

1-55 (5) one representative of an agricultural advocacy
 1-56 organization in this state, appointed by the governor;

1-57 (6) one representative of a hospital advocacy
 1-58 organization in this state, appointed by the governor;

1-59 (7) one representative of a medical advocacy
 1-60 organization in this state, appointed by the governor;

2-1 (8) one county official who serves in an elected
2-2 office of a county with a population of less than 35,000, appointed
2-3 by the governor;

2-4 (9) one municipal official who serves in an elected
2-5 office of a municipality with a population of less than 20,000
2-6 located in a county with a population of less than 60,000, appointed
2-7 by the governor;

2-8 (10) one representative of an institution of higher
2-9 education that has its main campus in a county with a population of
2-10 less than 60,000, appointed by the governor;

2-11 (11) one representative of a school district with a
2-12 territory that includes only counties with a population of less
2-13 than 60,000, appointed by the governor;

2-14 (12) one representative from a library association,
2-15 appointed by the governor;

2-16 (13) one member of the house of representatives,
2-17 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

2-18 (14) one state senator, appointed by the lieutenant
2-19 governor.

2-20 (b) A member of the council appointed under Subsection (a)
2-21 serves for a five-year term.

2-22 (c) A vacancy on the council is filled in the same manner as
2-23 the original appointment.

2-24 Sec. 490H.003. COUNCIL PRESIDING OFFICER. The governor
2-25 shall designate the presiding officer of the council.

2-26 Sec. 490H.004. MEETINGS. (a) The council shall convene at
2-27 least once every quarter.

2-28 (b) The council shall convene at the call of the presiding
2-29 officer.

2-30 Sec. 490H.005. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The office of the
2-31 governor shall provide administrative support to the council.

2-32 Sec. 490H.006. DUTIES. (a) The council shall:

2-33 (1) research the progress of broadband development in
2-34 unserved areas;

2-35 (2) identify barriers to residential and commercial
2-36 broadband deployment in unserved areas;

2-37 (3) study technology-neutral solutions to overcome
2-38 barriers identified under Subdivision (2); and

2-39 (4) analyze how statewide access to broadband would
2-40 benefit:

2-41 (A) economic development;

2-42 (B) the delivery of educational opportunities in
2-43 higher education and public education;

2-44 (C) state and local law enforcement;

2-45 (D) state emergency preparedness; and

2-46 (E) the delivery of health care services,
2-47 including telemedicine and telehealth.

2-48 (b) The council may research another matter related to
2-49 broadband only if a majority of the council approves researching
2-50 the matter.

2-51 (c) For the purpose of performing its duties under this
2-52 section, the council may consult with a representative of an
2-53 institution of higher education who has published scholarly
2-54 research on broadband.

2-55 Sec. 490H.007. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than November 1 of
2-56 each year, the council shall prepare and deliver an electronic
2-57 report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, the
2-58 lieutenant governor, and each member of the legislature.

2-59 Sec. 490H.008. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires September
2-60 1, 2029.

2-61 SECTION 2. The first report described by Section 490H.007,
2-62 Government Code, as added by this Act, is due November 1, 2020.

2-63 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-64 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-65 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-66 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-67 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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