

By: Senator(s) DeLano

To: Rules

SENATE BILL NO. 3057

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 4, CHAPTER 491, LAWS OF 2020 (HOUSE
 2 BILL NO. 1788), TO AUTHORIZE FUNDS APPROPRIATED AND GRANT MONIES
 3 DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE MISSISSIPPI PANDEMIC RESPONSE BROADBAND
 4 AVAILABILITY GRANT PROGRAM TO BE EXPENDED ON A LICENSE TO USE
 5 EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF NO LONGER THAN ONE (1) YEAR
 6 AS NECESSARY TO FULFILL THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM; AND FOR
 7 RELATED PURPOSES.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 4, Chapter 491, Laws of 2020 (House Bill
 10 No. 1788), is amended as follows:

11 Section 4. (1) The department shall distribute grant
 12 monies, without the requirement of application by school districts
 13 or schools, as equitably and efficiently as possible after
 14 determining the unserved areas of the state using the latest
 15 publicly available Federal Communications Commission broadband
 16 data, and after determining which and to what extent Mississippi
 17 public school districts, independent schools and Native American
 18 tribal school districts educate students living in such unserved
 19 areas of the state. The Mississippi Department of Education shall
 20 consult with the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools



21 and the administrations of the Native American tribal school
22 districts in determining which and to what extent such schools
23 and * * * school districts educate students living in such
24 unserved areas of the state. Any grant monies provided under this
25 act shall be spent by the recipient school district no later than
26 December 1, 2020, or by such later date as may be specified in the
27 guidelines, guidance, rules, regulations and/or other criteria of
28 the United States Department of the Treasury regarding the use of
29 monies from the Coronavirus Relief Fund established in Section
30 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.
31 Grants shall be conditioned on the school district or school
32 broadband provider agreements including that broadband capacity
33 shall be expanded to a significant extent for the district's or
34 school's students during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

35 (2) Funds appropriated and grant monies distributed under
36 this program may be expended on a license to use equipment and
37 services for a period of no longer than one (1) year as necessary
38 to address the COVID-19 crisis and fulfill the purposes of this
39 program.

40 (* * *3) The department may develop regulations and
41 procedures to govern the administration of the program.

42 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
43 and after its passage.

