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H.319

Introduced by Representative Browning of Arlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Commerce and trade; broadband; regional service fee

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to impose a service fee on certain broadband service providers to improve broadband availability throughout Vermont.

An act relating to establishing a broadband regional service fee

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 8081 is added to read:

§ 8081. BROADBAND REGIONAL SERVICE FEE

(a) Definitions. In this section:

(1) "Broadband service" means Internet service via optical fiber, DSL, cable broadband, fixed wireless (WISP), or mobile wireless broadband that delivers or exceeds 3 mbps download speed 2 mbps upload speed to a service location and that is designed to reasonably accommodate upgrades that meet future standards.

1 (2) “Broadband service provider” means a person who offers broadband
2 service to at least 40 percent of service locations in a town, whether measured
3 as 911 addresses, population, or geography.

4 (3) “Local service area” means the Vermont town in which a broadband
5 service provider offers broadband service.

6 (4) “Service location” means a physical premises used for residential or
7 commercial purposes that is identifiable by an enhanced 911 address.

8 (5) “Unserved location” means a service location at which broadband
9 service is unavailable.

10 (b) Service inventory. Beginning July 1, 2013, the authority shall annually
11 prepare and publish on its website an inventory for each local service area that
12 shall include the total number of service locations, the number of unserved
13 locations, and a list of each broadband service provider and the number of
14 service locations to which it provides broadband service.

15 (c) Broadband regional service fee.

16 (1) Within 30 days of the annual publication of the service inventory
17 required under subsection (b) of this section, each broadband service provider
18 shall remit to the authority a broadband regional service fee, the amount of
19 which shall be \$100.00 per each unserved location within the broadband
20 service provider’s regional service area.

1 (2) When a broadband service provider extends service to an unserved
2 location, every other broadband service provider in the local service area shall
3 continue to pay a broadband regional service fee of \$50.00 for that location for
4 five years.

5 (d) The authority shall use the fees collected pursuant to this section first to
6 achieve 100-percent coverage pursuant to this chapter and, once that is
7 achieved, to then deliver fiber-quality service to Vermont's public facilities,
8 regional business hubs, and anchor businesses and institutions.

9 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect January 1, 2013.