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H.768

Introduced by Representatives Manwaring of Wilmington, Buxton of
Tunbridge, Cole of Burlington, Dakin of Chester, Evans of
Essex, Fay of St. Johnsbury, Keenan of St. Albans City, Lenex
of Shelburne, Martin of Springfield, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mook
of Bennington, O’Sullivan of Burlington, Spengler of
Colchester, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, and Townsend of
South Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Utilities; telecommunications; cable; broadcasters; fees

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize
cable companies doing business in Vermont to disclose any fees incurred as
the result of a retransmission agreement entered into with a commercial
broadcasting station, notwithstanding any contractual terms to the contrary.

An act relating to the transparency of retransmission fees

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

1 Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 518 is added to read:

2 § 518. DISCLOSURE OF RETRANSMISSION FEES

3 (a) A retransmission agreement entered into between a commercial
4 broadcasting station and a cable company pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 325 shall not
5 include terms prohibiting the company from disclosing to its subscribers any
6 fees incurred for program content retransmitted on the cable network under the
7 retransmission agreement.

8 (b) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214(b), this section shall apply to all
9 retransmission agreements entered into on or after January 1, 2011.

10 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on passage.