

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Ways and Means to which was referred House Bill
3 No. 870 entitled “An act relating to telecommunications” respectfully reports
4 that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended as
5 follows:

6 First: By striking out Sec. 4 (capital appropriation for Connectivity
7 Initiative) in its entirety

8 Second: In Sec. 5, 30 V.S.A. § 7523, in subsection (b), by striking out
9 “2020” and inserting in lieu thereof “2021”

10 Third: By striking out Sec. 10 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a
11 new Sec. 10 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 10. PROPOSAL; SCHOOL CONNECTIVITY GRANT PROGRAM

13 On or before December 1, 2016, the Secretary of Education and the Director
14 of Telecommunications and Connectivity shall propose to the General
15 Assembly in the form of a draft bill a school connectivity grant program
16 designed to provide competitive grants to public schools for capital costs
17 associated with the purchase of hardware for infrastructure for internal
18 Internet connections. The goal of the program is to ensure that the maximum
19 Internet service available to the school is accessible by all personnel and
20 students on school grounds, consistent with and supportive of educational
21 policies and objectives. Proposed criteria shall prioritize rural communities

1 having a percentage of households categorized as low-income that is higher
2 than the State average, and shall seek to maximize the availability of federal
3 matching funds.

4 Fourth: By adding a new Sec. 11 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 11. RECOUPMENT AND REPURPOSING OF
6 TELECOMMUNICATIONS GRANT FUNDS

7 To the extent State funds are recouped by the Department of Public Service,
8 as the successor in interest to the Vermont Telecommunications Authority
9 (VTA), as the result of a grant recipient's failure to comply with the terms of a
10 grant agreement entered into with the VTA, such public monies shall be
11 deposited in the Connectivity Fund.

12 Fifth: By adding a new Sec. 12 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 12. HIGH-COST PROGRAM; PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD;
14 DEADLINE

15 The Public Service Board shall issue a procedures order for implementation
16 of the High-Cost Program established under 30 V.S.A. § 7515 not later than
17 September 1, 2016. If the Board fails to do so, the Board shall provide a report
18 to the General Assembly and the Governor detailing reasons for failing to
19 comply with this mandate.

20 and by renumbering all sections to be numerically correct

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(Committee vote: _____)

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE

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