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TBD

Representative Young of Glover moves that the bill be amended by adding
Secs. X1 – X12 (effective on passage) as follows:

* * * PSB Telecommunications Siting; Municipal Role * * *

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 248a is amended to read:

§ 248a. CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD FOR COMMUNICATIONS
FACILITIES

(a) Certificate. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the applicant seeks approval for the construction or installation of telecommunications facilities that are to be interconnected with other telecommunications facilities proposed or already in existence, the applicant may obtain a certificate of public good issued by the Public Service Board under this section, which the Board may grant if it finds that the facilities will promote the general good of the State consistent with subsection 202c(b) of this title. A single application may seek approval of one or more telecommunications facilities. An application under this section shall include a copy of each other State and local permit, certificate, or approval that has been issued for the facility under a statute, ordinance, or bylaw pertaining to the environment or land use.

(b) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Ancillary improvements” means telecommunications equipment and site improvements that are primarily intended to serve a

1 telecommunications facility, including wires or cables and associated poles to
2 connect the facility to an electric or communications grid; fencing; equipment
3 cabinets or shelters; emergency backup generators; and access roads.

4 (2) “De minimis modification” means the addition, modification, or
5 replacement of telecommunications equipment, antennas, or ancillary
6 improvements on a telecommunications facility or existing support structure,
7 whether or not the structure was constructed as a telecommunications facility,
8 or the reconstruction of such a facility or support structure, provided:

9 (A) the height and width of the facility or support structure,
10 excluding equipment, antennas, or ancillary improvements, are not increased;

11 (B) the total amount of impervious surface, including access roads,
12 surrounding the facility or support structure is not increased by more than
13 300 square feet;

14 (C) the addition, modification, or replacement of an antenna or any
15 other equipment on a facility or support structure does not extend vertically
16 more than 10 feet above the facility or support structure and does not extend
17 horizontally more than 10 feet from the facility or support structure; and

18 (D) the additional equipment, antennas, or ancillary improvements on
19 the support structure, excluding cabling, does not increase the aggregate
20 surface area of the faces of the equipment, antennas, or ancillary improvements
21 on the support structure by more than 75 square feet.

1 (3) “Good cause” means a showing of evidence that the substantial
2 deference required under subdivision (c)(2) of this section would create a
3 substantial shortcoming detrimental to the public good or State’s interests in
4 section 202c of this title.

5 (4)(A) “Limited size and scope” means:

6 (i) A new telecommunications facility, including any ancillary
7 improvements, that does not exceed 140 feet in height; or

8 (ii) An addition, modification, replacement, or removal of
9 telecommunications equipment at a lawfully constructed telecommunications
10 facility or on an existing support structure, and ancillary improvements, that
11 would result in a facility of a total height of less than 200 feet and does not
12 increase the width of the existing support structure by more than 20 feet.

13 (B) For construction described in subdivision (3)(A) of this
14 subsection to be of limited size and scope, it shall not disturb more than
15 10,000 square feet of earth. ~~For purposes of~~ As used in this subdivision,
16 “disturbed earth” means the exposure of soil to the erosive effects of wind,
17 rain, or runoff.

18 (5) “Substantial deference” means that the plans and recommendations
19 referenced under subdivision (c)(2) of this section are presumed correct, valid,
20 and reasonable.

1 ~~(4)~~(6) “Telecommunications facility” means a communications facility
2 that transmits and receives signals to and from a local, State, national, or
3 international network used primarily for two-way communications for
4 commercial, industrial, municipal, county, or State purposes and any
5 associated support structure that is proposed for construction or installation
6 which is primarily for communications purposes, and any ancillary
7 improvements that are proposed for construction or installation and are
8 primarily intended to serve the communications facilities or support structure.
9 An applicant may seek approval of construction or installation of a
10 telecommunications facility whether or not the telecommunications facility is
11 attached to an existing structure.

12 ~~(5)~~(7) “Wireless service” means any commercial mobile radio service,
13 wireless service, common carrier wireless exchange service, cellular service,
14 personal communications service (PCS), specialized mobile radio service,
15 paging service, wireless data service, or public or private radio dispatch
16 service.

17 (c) Findings. Before the Public Service Board issues a certificate of public
18 good under this section, it shall find that:

19 (1) The proposed facility will not have an undue adverse effect on
20 aesthetics, historic sites, air and water purity, the natural environment, and the
21 public health and safety, and the public’s use and enjoyment of the I-89 and

1 I-91 scenic corridors or of any highway that has been designated as a scenic
2 road pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 2501 or a scenic byway pursuant to 23 U.S.C.
3 § 162, with due consideration having been given to the relevant criteria
4 specified in 10 V.S.A. §§ 1424a(d) and 6086(a)(1) through (8) and (9)(K).
5 However, with respect to telecommunications facilities of limited size and
6 scope, the Board shall waive all criteria of this subdivision other than
7 10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(D)(floodways) and (a)(8)(aesthetics, scenic beauty,
8 historic sites, rare and irreplaceable natural areas; endangered species;
9 necessary wildlife habitat). Such waiver shall be on condition that:

10 (A) the Board may determine, pursuant to the procedures described
11 in subdivision (j)(2)(A) of this section, that a petition raises a significant issue
12 with respect to any criterion of this subdivision; and

13 (B) a telecommunications facility of limited size and scope shall
14 comply, at a minimum, with the requirements of the Low Risk Site Handbook
15 for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control issued by the Department of
16 Environmental Conservation, regardless of any provisions in that handbook
17 that limit its applicability.

18 (2) Unless there is good cause to find otherwise, substantial deference
19 has been given to ~~the land conservation measures in~~ the plans of the affected
20 municipalities ~~and~~ to the recommendations of the municipal legislative bodies
21 and the municipal ~~and regional~~ planning commissions regarding the municipal

1 ~~and regional plans, respectively;~~ and to the recommendations of the regional
2 planning commission concerning the regional plan. Nothing in this section or
3 other provision of law shall prevent a municipal body from basing its
4 recommendations to which substantial deference is required under this
5 subdivision (2) on an ordinance adopted under 24 V.S.A. § 2291(19) or bylaw
6 adopted under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 by the municipality in which the facility
7 is located. A rebuttable presumption respecting compliance with the
8 applicable plan shall be created by a letter from an affected municipal
9 legislative body or municipal planning commission concerning compliance
10 with the municipal plan and by a letter from a regional planning commission
11 concerning compliance with the regional plan.

12 (3) If the proposed facility relates to the provision of wireless service,
13 the proposed facility reasonably cannot be collocated on or at an existing
14 telecommunications facility, or such collocation would cause an undue adverse
15 effect on aesthetics.

16 (A) If a proposed new support structure for a new
17 telecommunications facility that provides wireless service will exceed 50 feet
18 in height in a cleared area or will exceed 20 feet in height above the average
19 treeline measured within a 100-foot radius from the structure in a wooded area,
20 the application shall identify all existing telecommunications facilities within
21 the area to be served by the proposed structure and, for each such existing

1 facility, shall include a projection of the coverage and an estimate of additional
2 capacity that would be provided if the applicant's proposed
3 telecommunications equipment were located on or at the existing facility. The
4 applicant also shall compare each such projection and estimate to the coverage
5 and capacity that would be provided at the site of the proposed structure.

6 (B) To obtain a finding that a proposed facility cannot reasonably be
7 collocated on or at an existing telecommunications facility, the applicant must
8 demonstrate that:

9 (i) collocating on or at an existing facility will result in a
10 significant reduction of the area to be served or the capacity to be provided by
11 the proposed facility or substantially impede coverage or capacity objectives
12 for the proposed facility that promote the general good of the State under
13 subsection 202c(b) of this title;

14 (ii) the proposed antennas and equipment will exceed the
15 structural or spatial capacity of the existing or approved tower or facility, and
16 the existing or approved tower or facility cannot be reinforced, modified, or
17 replaced to accommodate planned or equivalent equipment, at a reasonable
18 cost, to provide coverage and capacity comparable to that of the proposed
19 facility;

1 (iii) the owner of the existing facility will not provide space for
2 the applicant’s proposed telecommunications equipment on or at that facility
3 on commercially reasonable terms; or

4 (iv) the proposed antennas and equipment will cause radio
5 frequency interference that will materially impact the usefulness of other
6 existing or permitted equipment at the existing or approved tower or facility
7 and such interference cannot be mitigated at a reasonable cost.

8 * * *

9 (e) Notice. No less than ~~45~~ 60 days prior to filing an application for a
10 certificate of public good under this section, the applicant shall serve written
11 notice of an application to be filed with the Board pursuant to this section to
12 the legislative bodies and municipal and regional planning commissions in the
13 communities in which the applicant proposes to construct or install facilities;
14 the Secretary of Natural Resources; the Secretary of Transportation; the
15 Division for Historic Preservation; the Commissioner of Public Service and its
16 Director for Public Advocacy; the Natural Resources Board if the application
17 concerns a telecommunications facility for which a permit previously has been
18 issued under 10 V.S.A. chapter 151; and the landowners of record of property
19 adjoining the project sites. In addition, at least one copy of each application
20 shall be filed with each of these municipal and regional planning commissions.

1 (1) Upon motion or otherwise, the Public Service Board shall direct that
2 further public or personal notice be provided if the Board finds that such
3 further notice will not unduly delay consideration of the merits and that
4 additional notice is necessary for fair consideration of the application.

5 (2) On the request of the municipal legislative body or the planning
6 commission, the applicant shall attend a public meeting with the municipal
7 legislative body or planning commission, or both, within the ~~45-day~~ 60-day
8 notice period before filing an application for a certificate of public good. The
9 Department of Public Service shall attend the public meeting on the request of
10 the municipality. The Department shall consider the comments made and
11 information obtained at the meeting in making recommendations to the Board
12 on the application and in determining whether to retain additional personnel
13 under subsection (o) of this section.

14 (3) With the notice required under this subsection, the applicant shall
15 include a written assessment of the collocation requirements of subdivision
16 (c)(3) of this section, as they pertain to the applicant's proposed
17 telecommunications facility. On the request of the municipal legislative body
18 or the planning commission, the Department of Public Service, pursuant to its
19 authority under subsection (o) of this section, shall retain an expert to review
20 the applicant's collocation assessment and to conduct further independent
21 analysis, as necessary. Within 45 days of receiving the applicant's notice and

1 collocation assessment, the Department shall report its own preliminary
2 findings and recommendations regarding collocation to the applicant and to all
3 persons required to receive notice of an application for a certificate of public
4 good under this subsection (e).

5 * * *

6 (h) Exemptions from other law.

7 (1) An applicant using the procedures provided in this section shall not
8 be required to obtain a permit or permit amendment or other approval under
9 the provisions of 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 or 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 for the
10 facilities subject to the application or to a certificate of public good issued
11 pursuant to this section. This exemption from obtaining a permit or permit
12 amendment under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 shall not affect the substantial
13 deference to be given to a plan or recommendation based on a local land use
14 bylaw under subdivision (c)(2) of this section.

15 (2) ~~Ordinances~~ An applicant using the procedures provided in this
16 section shall not be required to obtain an approval from the municipality under
17 an ordinance adopted pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2291(19) or a municipal charter
18 that would otherwise apply to the construction or installation of facilities
19 subject to this section ~~are preempted~~. This exemption from obtaining an
20 approval under such an ordinance shall not affect the substantial deference to

1 be given to a plan or recommendation based on such an ordinance under
2 subdivision (c)(2) of this section.

3 (3) Disputes over jurisdiction under this section shall be resolved by the
4 Public Service Board, subject to appeal as provided by section 12 of this title.
5 An applicant that has obtained or been denied a permit or permit amendment
6 under the provisions of Title 24 or 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 for the construction
7 of a telecommunications facility may not apply for approval from the Board
8 for the same or substantially the same facility, except that an applicant may
9 seek approval for a modification to such a facility.

10 * * *

11 Sec. 2. 24 V.S.A. § 4412(8)(C) is amended to read:

12 (C) The regulation of a telecommunications facility, as defined in
13 30 V.S.A. § 248a, shall be exempt from municipal approval under this chapter
14 when and to the extent jurisdiction is assumed by the Public Service Board
15 according to the provisions of that section. This exemption from obtaining
16 approval under this chapter shall not affect the substantial deference to be
17 given to a plan or recommendation based on a local land use bylaw under
18 30 V.S.A. § 248a(c)(2).

1 * * * Connectivity Initiative; Public Schools; Cellular Service * * *

2 Sec. 3. 30 V.S.A. § 7515b is amended to read:

3 § 7515b. CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVE

4 (a) The ~~purpose~~ goals of the Connectivity Initiative ~~is~~ are to:

5 (1) ~~provide~~ Provide each service location in Vermont access to Internet
6 service that is capable of speeds of at least 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps
7 upload, or the FCC speed requirements established under Connect America
8 Fund Phase II, whichever is higher, beginning with locations not served as of
9 December 31, 2013 according to the minimum technical service characteristic
10 objectives applicable at that time. Within this category of service locations,
11 priority shall be given first to unserved and then to underserved locations. As
12 used in this section, “unserved” means a location having access to only satellite
13 or dial-up Internet service and “underserved” means a location having access
14 to Internet service with speeds that exceed satellite and dial-up speeds but are
15 less than 4 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload.

16 (2) Provide universal availability of mobile telecommunications service
17 throughout the State.

18 (b) Any new services funded in whole or in part by monies from this
19 Initiative shall be capable of being continuously upgraded to reflect the best
20 available, most economically feasible service capabilities.

1 ~~(b)~~(c) The Department of Public Service shall publish annually a list of
2 census blocks eligible for funding based on the Department’s most recent
3 broadband mapping data. The Department annually shall solicit proposals
4 from telecommunications service providers, alone or in partnership with one or
5 more municipalities, to deploy broadband to eligible census blocks.

6 (d) The Department shall give priority to proposals that reflect the lowest
7 cost of providing services to unserved and underserved locations; ~~however or~~
8 that include upgrading Internet service at one or more public schools that do
9 not have access to Internet service capable of the minimum speeds required
10 under subdivision (a)(1) of this section. In addition, the Department shall give
11 priority to proposals that include matching public or private funds and establish
12 an alignment between the proposed broadband or cellular project and
13 community goals.

14 (e) In addition to the priorities established in subsection (d) of this section,
15 the Department also shall consider:

16 (1) the proposed data transfer rates and other data transmission
17 characteristics of services that would be available to consumers;

18 (2) the price to consumers of services;

19 (3) the proposed cost to consumers of any new construction, equipment
20 installation service, or facility required to obtain service;

1 (4) whether the proposal would use the best available technology that is
2 economically feasible;

3 (5) the availability of service of comparable quality and speed; ~~and~~

4 (6) the objectives of the State’s Telecommunications Plan;

5 (7) whether a public school has a percentage of students receiving free
6 or reduced lunches that is above the State average;

7 (8) whether the community in which a public school is situated does not
8 have high speed Internet connectivity; and

9 (9) whether the community in which a public school is situated is rural
10 and has a percentage of households categorized as low-income that is higher
11 than the State average.

12 (10) a telecommunications service provider’s performance with respect
13 to the terms of a publicly-financed grant or loan awarded by a federal or State
14 entity for the expansion of broadband or mobile telecommunications service in
15 Vermont.

16 Sec. 4 [Deleted.]

17 Sec. 5. 30 V.S.A. § 7523 is amended to read:

18 § 7523. RATE OF CHARGE

19 (a) Beginning on July 1, 2014, the rate of charge shall be two percent of
20 retail telecommunications service.

1 (b) Beginning on July 1, 2016 and ending on June 30, 2021, the rate of
2 charge established under subsection (a) of this section shall be increased by
3 one-half of one percent of retail telecommunications service, and the monies
4 collected from this increase shall be transferred to the Connectivity Fund
5 established under section 7516 of this title to provide specifically additional
6 support for the Connectivity Initiative established under section 7515b of this
7 title.

8 (c) Universal Service Charges imposed and collected by the fiscal agent
9 under this subchapter shall not be transferred to any other fund or used to
10 support the cost of any activity other than in the manner authorized by this
11 section and section 7511 of this title.

12 Sec. 6. 30 V.S.A. § 7516 is amended to read:

13 § 7516. CONNECTIVITY FUND

14 (a) There is created a Connectivity Fund for the purpose of providing
15 support to the High-Cost Program established under section 7515 of this
16 chapter and the Connectivity Initiative established under section 7515b of this
17 chapter. The fiscal agent shall determine annually, on or before September 1,
18 the amount of monies available to the Connectivity Fund. Such funds shall be
19 apportioned as follows: 45 percent to the High-Cost Program and 55 percent
20 to the Connectivity Initiative.

1 (b) In addition to the monies transferred to the Fund pursuant to subsection
2 (a) of this section, monies collected from one-half of one percent of the
3 Universal Service Charge shall be allocated to the Fund specifically to provide
4 additional support to the Connectivity Initiative, as prescribed in subsection
5 7523(b) of this title.

6 * * * VUSF; News Service; Blind and Visually Impaired * * *

7 Sec. 7. 30 V.S.A. § 7511 is amended to read:

8 § 7511. DISTRIBUTION GENERALLY

9 (a)(1) As directed by the Commissioner of Public Service, funds collected
10 by the fiscal agent, and interest accruing thereon, shall be distributed as
11 follows:

12 (A) to pay costs payable to the fiscal agent under its contract with the
13 Commissioner;

14 (B) to support the Vermont telecommunications relay service in the
15 manner provided by section 7512 of this title;

16 (C) to support the Vermont Lifeline program in the manner provided
17 by section 7513 of this title;

18 (D) to support Enhanced-911 services in the manner provided by
19 section 7514 of this title; ~~and~~

20 (E) to support a telecommunications information and news service in
21 the manner provided by section 7512a of this title; and

1 (F) to support the Connectivity Fund established in section 7516 of
2 this title; and

3 (2) for fiscal year 2016 only, any personnel or administrative costs
4 associated with the Connectivity Initiative shall come from the Connectivity
5 Fund, as determined by the Commissioner in consultation with the
6 Connectivity Board.

7 (b) If insufficient funds exist to support all of the purposes contained in
8 subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner shall allocate the available
9 funds, giving priority in the order listed in subsection (a).

10 Sec. 8. 30 V.S.A. § 7512a is added to read:

11 § 7512a. TELECOMMUNICATIONS NEWS SERVICE

12 The fiscal agent shall make distributions to the State Treasurer for a
13 telecommunications information and news service that provides access to
14 existing newspapers and other printed materials for individuals who are blind,
15 visually impaired, or otherwise unable to read such printed materials. The
16 amount of the transfer shall be determined by the Commissioner of Public
17 Service as the amount reasonably necessary to pay the costs of a contract
18 administered by the Department of Public Service.

1 * * * High-Cost Program; Eligibility; Deployment Information * * *

2 Sec. 9. 30 V.S.A. § 7515 is amended to read:

3 § 7515. HIGH-COST PROGRAM

4 (a) The Universal Service Charge shall be used as a means of keeping basic
5 telecommunications service affordable in all parts of this State, thereby
6 maintaining universal service, and as a means of supporting access to
7 broadband service in all parts of the State.

8 * * *

9 (i) The amount of the monthly support under this section shall be the pro
10 rata share of available funds based on the total number of incumbent local
11 exchange carriers in the State and reflecting each carrier’s lines in service or
12 service locations in its high-cost area or areas, as determined under subsection
13 (e) of this section. If an incumbent local exchange carrier does not petition the
14 Board for VETC designation, or is found ineligible by the Board or by the
15 Commissioner of Public Service pursuant to his or her authority under
16 subsection (k) of this section, the share of funds it otherwise would have
17 received under this section shall be used to support the Connectivity Initiative
18 established in section 7515b of this chapter.

19 * * *

20 (l) Based on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Public Service,
21 the Board may deem a company ineligible to receive monthly support under

1 this section or revoke a company's VETC designation if he or she finds that
2 the company or one of its affiliates has not provided adequate deployment
3 information requested by the Director for Telecommunications and
4 Connectivity under subsection 202e(c) of this title.

5 Sec. 10. PROPOSAL; SCHOOL CONNECTIVITY GRANT PROGRAM

6 On or before December 1, 2016, the Secretary of Education and the Director
7 of Telecommunications and Connectivity shall propose to the General
8 Assembly in the form of a draft bill a school connectivity grant program
9 designed to provide competitive grants to public schools for capital costs
10 associated with upgrading the Internet connection to a public school or
11 purchasing hardware for infrastructure for internal Internet connections. The
12 goal of the program is to ensure that the maximum Internet service available to
13 the school is accessible by all personnel and students on school grounds,
14 consistent with and supportive of educational policies and objectives.
15 Proposed criteria shall prioritize rural communities having a percentage of
16 households categorized as low-income that is higher than the State average,
17 and shall seek to maximize the availability of federal matching funds.

1 * * * Communications Union Districts; Budget; Hearing;

2 Date Changes * * *

3 Sec. 10a. 30 V.S.A. § 3075 is amended to read:

4 § 3075. BUDGET

5 (a) Annually, ~~not later than September 15~~ on or before October 21, the
6 board shall approve and cause to be distributed to the legislative body of each
7 district member for review and comment an annual report of its activities,
8 together with a financial statement, a proposed district budget for the next
9 fiscal year, and a forecast presenting anticipated year-end results. The
10 proposed budget shall include reasonably detailed estimates of:

11 (1) deficits and surpluses from prior fiscal years;

12 (2) anticipated expenditures for the administration of the district;

13 (3) anticipated expenditures for the operation and maintenance of any
14 district communications plant;

15 (4) payments due on obligations, long-term contracts, leases, and
16 financing agreements;

17 (5) payments due to any sinking funds for the retirement of district
18 obligations;

19 (6) payments due to any capital or financing reserve funds;

20 (7) anticipated revenues from all sources; and

1 (8) such other estimates as the board deems necessary to accomplish its
2 purpose.

3 (b) Coincident with a regular meeting thereof, the board shall hold a public
4 hearing ~~not later than November 1~~ on or before November 15 of each year to
5 receive comments from the legislative bodies of district members and hear all
6 other interested persons regarding the proposed budget. Notice of such hearing
7 shall be given to the legislative bodies of district members at least ~~30 days~~ 15
8 days prior to such hearing. The board shall give consideration to all comments
9 received and make such changes to the proposed budget as it deems advisable.

10 (c) Annually, ~~not later than December 1~~ on or before December 15, the
11 board shall adopt the budget and appropriate the sums it deems necessary to
12 meet its obligations and operate and carry out the district's functions for the
13 next ensuing fiscal year.

14 (d) Actions or resolutions of the board for the annual appropriations of any
15 year shall not cease to be operative at the end of the fiscal year for which they
16 were adopted. Appropriations made by the board for the various estimates of
17 the budget shall be expended only for such estimates, but by majority vote of
18 the board the budget may be amended from time to time to transfer funds
19 between or among such estimates. Any balance left or unencumbered in any
20 such budget estimate, or the amount of any deficit at the end of the fiscal year,
21 shall be included in and paid out of the operating budget and appropriations in

1 the next fiscal year. All such budget amendments shall be reported by the
2 district treasurer to the legislative bodies of each district member within 14
3 days of the end of the fiscal year.

4 (e) Financial statements and audit results shall be delivered to the
5 legislative bodies of each district member within 10 days of delivery to the
6 board.

7 * * * E-911; Call-taking Services; Study * * *

8 Sec. 10b. E-911; CALL-TAKING SERVICES; STUDY

9 (a) A working group shall be formed to study and make recommendations
10 regarding the most efficient, reliable, and cost effective means for providing
11 statewide call-taking operations for Vermont’s 911 system. Among other
12 things, the group shall make findings related to the financing, operations, and
13 geographical location of 911 call-taking services. In addition, the group’s
14 findings shall include a description of the number and nature of calls received,
15 and an evaluation of current and potential State and local partnerships with
16 respect to the provision of such services. The group shall take into
17 consideration the “Enhanced 9-1-1 Board Operational and Organizational
18 Report,” dated September 4, 2015. The group’s recommendations shall strive
19 to achieve the best possible outcome in terms of ensuring the health and safety
20 of Vermonters and Vermont communities.

1 (b) Members of the working group shall include a representative from each
2 of the following entities: the Enhanced 911 Board; the Department of Public
3 Safety; the Vermont State Employees Association; the Vermont League of
4 Cities and Towns; the Vermont State Firefighters' Association; the Vermont
5 Ambulance Association; the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police; and the
6 Vermont Sheriffs' Association.

7 (c) The representative from the E-911 Board shall convene the first meeting
8 of the working group, at which the group shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair
9 from among its members. The group shall meet as needed, and shall receive
10 administrative and staffing support from the Department of Public Safety, and
11 may request relevant financial information from the Joint Fiscal Office.

12 (d) On or before January 15, 2017, the group shall report its findings and
13 recommendations to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic
14 Development, on Government Operations, on Appropriations, and on Ways
15 and Means and to the Senate Committees on Finance, on Government
16 Operations, on Appropriations, and on Economic Development, Housing, and
17 General Affairs, and to the Governor.

18 (e) The Department of Public Safety shall continue to provide 911
19 call-taking services unless otherwise directed by legislative enactment.

1 * * * Miscellaneous Provisions; Telecommunications

2 Grant Programs * * *

3 Sec. 11. RECOVERY AND REPURPOSING OF

4 TELECOMMUNICATIONS GRANT FUNDS

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

10 Sec. 12. HIGH-COST PROGRAM; PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD;

11 DEADLINE

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

17