

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Ways & Means to which was referred House Bill No.
3 117 entitled “An act relating to creating a Division for Telecommunications
4 and Connectivity within the Department of Public Service” respectfully reports
5 that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended as
6 follows:

7 First: In Sec.9, 30 V.S.A. § 7511(a) by striking out subdivision (2) in its
8 entirety and by inserting in lieu thereof the following:

9 (2) For fiscal year 2016 only, any personnel or administrative costs
10 associated with the Connectivity Initiative shall come from the Connectivity
11 Fund, as determined by the Commissioner in consultation with the
12 Connectivity Board.

13 Second: By adding Sec. 9a to read as follows:

14 Sec. 9a. FUNDING FOR CONNECTIVITY PERSONNEL; GROSS
15 RECEIPTS TAX

16 Not later than January 15, 2016, the Commissioner shall determine whether
17 the revenues raised from the existing gross receipts tax on public service
18 companies, 30 V.S.A. § 22, is sufficient to finance the personnel and
19 administrative costs associated with the Connectivity Initiative, beginning in
20 fiscal year 2017. If the Commissioner determines the revenues are not
21 sufficient for this purpose, he or she shall recommend to the General Assembly

1 a new rate of tax applicable to one or more categories of public service
2 companies, as he or she deems necessary and appropriate.

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4 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE