

No. 32. An act relating to the telecommunications siting law.

(H.50)

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

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

§ 248a. CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD FOR COMMUNICATIONS
FACILITIES

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(e) Notice. No less than 60 days prior to filing an application for a certificate of public good under this section, the applicant shall serve written notice of an application to be filed with the Board pursuant to this section to the legislative bodies and municipal and regional planning commissions in the communities in which the applicant proposes to construct or install facilities; the Secretary of Natural Resources; the Secretary of Transportation; the Division for Historic Preservation; the Commissioner of Public Service and its Director for Public Advocacy; the Natural Resources Board if the application concerns a telecommunications facility for which a permit previously has been issued under 10 V.S.A. chapter 151; and the landowners of record of property adjoining the project sites. In addition, at least one copy of each application shall be filed with each of these municipal and regional planning commissions. The notices to the legislative body and planning commission of the municipality shall attach a statement that itemizes the rights and opportunities available to those bodies under subdivisions (c)(2) and (e)(2) of this section

and under subsections (m), (n), and (o) of this section and informs them of the guide published under subsection (p) of this section and how to obtain a copy of that guide.

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

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

findings and recommendations regarding colocation to the applicant and to all persons required to receive notice of an application for a certificate of public good under this subsection (e).

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(i) Sunset of Board authority. Effective on July 1, ~~2017~~ 2020, no new applications for certificates of public good under this section may be considered by the Board.

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Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

Date Governor signed bill: May 17, 2017