

VERMONT TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLAN 2014

House Committee on Energy and Technology

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3 OBJECTIVES

- 1) Assessment of the state of telecommunications services, infrastructure, and regulation in Vermont;
 - 97.8% of Vermonter's have access to landline telephone service within the home. (p.47-48).
 - It is estimated that in 22-25% of the state's E-911 addresses, the designated ILEC is the only landline option for voice service. (p.16).
 - Approximately 30% of households are "cell phone only" and have no landline service. (Appendix 4-15).
 - Vermont has had a Next Generation E911 system in place since 2011 which allowed Vermont to be the first in the nation to provide statewide Text to 9-1-1. (p.23).
 - 30 V.S.A. §202(c) (10) states that the intent of Vermont's telecommunications planning and policy law is to "support measures designed to ensure that by the end of the year 2024 every E-911 business and residential location in Vermont has infrastructure capable of delivering Internet access with service that has a minimum download speed of 100 Mbps and is symmetrical." (p.71).
 - 9% of Vermont locations have access to broadband speeds of 100 Mbps upload and 100 Mbps download or greater. (p.72).
 - 61% of Vermont locations have access to broadband speeds of 100 Mbps upload and 10 Mbps download or greater. (p.72).
 - 8% of Vermont locations have access to broadband speeds of 4 Mbps upload and 1 Mbps download or greater. (p.72).
 - 22% of Vermont locations have access to broadband speeds of .768 Mbps upload and .200 download or greater. (p.72).
 - 67.5% of Vermont E911 locations have access to cable providers; 89.6% of Vermont E911 locations have access to DSL providers; combined, 95.5% of Vermont E911 locations are provided access by cable or DSL providers. (p. 32).
 - FairPoint, Vermont's largest ILEC, offers DSL service to approximately 92% of the service locations in its territory. (p.37).

- 2) Future challenges facing the state in providing telecommunications and broadband services;
 - Maintaining telephone service in rural areas where it is increasingly unprofitable for companies to provide the service (Carrier of Last Resort). (p.86)
 - Vermont has no legal authority to compel broadband providers to offer service in designated areas or offer minimum threshold speeds. (p.34).
 - Facilitating the provision of broadband speeds of at least 4 Mbps upload and 1 Mbps download or greater to every address in Vermont. (p.85).
 - Facilitating that both basic local exchange service and basic broadband service remain affordable to all Vermonters, particularly the most vulnerable. (p.87).
 - Facilitate universal availability of mobile service along roadways and should have near universal availability statewide. (p.86).
 - Vermont should continue availability of the best possible and reliable E-911 service. Vermont should endeavor to find greater efficiencies within the E-911 system without sacrificing public safety. (p. 86).
 - Vermont's telecommunications marketplace should continue to be ever more competitive and all Vermonters should reap the benefits of competition. (p.86).
 - Like services should be regulated alike, regardless of the platform or technology used to provide the service. (p.86).
- 3) Policies and initiatives to attain state goals for telecommunications and broadband services.
 - Continue incentive regulation for FairPoint, increasing its ability to compete in the telecommunications marketplace on a more level playing field. (p.18).
 - Continue to encourage companies to utilize available federal funds for broadband investment (CAFII); Continue the Vermont Connectivity Initiative (high cost and connectivity grants). (p. 88).
 - Extend the sunset date for 248a streamlined permitting of cellular facilities. (p.100).
 - Pole attachment tariffs should treat all attaching entities fairly and there should be a unified rate for attaching entities. (p.102).
 - The state should continue the state lifeline program.
 - The state should partner with private enterprise to deploy broadband. (p.31).