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H.582

Introduced by Representatives Sibilias of Dover, Young of Glover, Bock of  
Chester, Conlon of Cornwall, Conquest of Newbury, Forguites  
of Springfield, Gannon of Wilmington, Haas of Rochester,  
Jickling of Randolph, Kimbell of Woodstock, McCormack of  
Burlington, and Scheu of Middlebury

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Telecommunications; Universal Service Charge; Connectivity

Initiative

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase the  
Universal Service Charge for a limited time and use the additional funds raised  
to support the Connectivity Initiative.

An act relating to increased funding for the Connectivity Initiative

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

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 7523 is amended to read:

§ 7523. RATE OF CHARGE

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

1       (b) Beginning on July 1, 2018 and ending on June 30, 2022, 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 additional support  
6       specifically for the Connectivity Initiative established under section 7515b of  
7       this 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. 2. 30 V.S.A. § 7516 is amended to read:

13      § 7516. CONNECTIVITY FUND

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

6       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

7       This act shall take effect on passage.