

Act relating to Information & Telecommunications Technology Planning & Governance

The Bill is about designing and implementing **effective** information technology oversight.

The Bill is about finally integrating State information and telecommunications technology initiatives with our **economic development goals and strategies** in an effective manner.

Our citizen legislature, for the most part, lacks the necessary subject matter expertise, especially with regard to complex information technology projects. There are also simply not enough volunteer Board and Commission members with the required expertise and diligence to sustain effective planning and governance when diluted among so many uncoordinated efforts.

Oversight duties are frequently delegated to the executive branch, with a "*light touch*," often to the same folks who are responsible for preparing or executing the plans and projects.

There are all too frequently heretofore no penalties or downside to not adhering to law or mandates other than a very slim risk of rare press coverage. The fox guarding the hen house.

When plans or projects go sideways, statutes are ignored, vendors fail to deliver, the oversight falters and these same managers then go into damage control mode, conceal public records or, in response to FOIA requests, demand outrageous fees and research/redaction payments. They distract, divert, cover up, sing in harmony the 5th floor's excuses. Vermont Health Connect, EB-5, E911, Ten Year Telcom Plan, CoverageCo and FirstNet are just a few recent examples.

How will this Bill help to resolve these problems?

Establish more specific statutory planning and Plan requirements, processes and timelines.

Clarify/Create the "***policy and planning***" statutory goals for each plan. (i.e. 30 VSA 202c)

Require that each plan individually address each goal with specific and detailed objectives.

Require more Plan specifics on Privacy, Access, Network Redundancy & Resiliency impacts.

Require Plans address job growth, IT management capacity & regenerative economic impacts.

Require documented progress made toward each goal, by each objective, every plan cycle.

Remove the authority of Agency/Departments to 'self-adopt' frequently insufficient plans.

Which Plans are included in this integration effort?

- Ten Year Telecommunications Plan
- Five Year Strategic Information Technology and Security Plan
- Statewide Economic Development Strategy
- Health Information Technology Plan
- Geographic Information Systems Strategic Plan
- FirstNet Public Safety 4G/LTE Broadband Network Plan

- Enhanced 911 and Consolidated Regional Dispatch Plan
- Statewide AMO (Access Media Organization) Network Plan
- Next Generation VIT Plan
- State Web Portal Plan
- Statehouse Media Access Plan

What else does the Bill do?

Convenes a Council to assure/approve all related plans' completeness and integration. (I&TTC)

Enhance transparency by publishing the Councils' documented reviews of plans, rules & fees.

Require deep integration and coordination among related Plans founded on common goals.

Require Council to review/approve plans only **after** meeting all of the above requirements.

Require plan updates to detail progress made on prior plans' specific detailed objectives.

Consolidates a plethora of related Boards and Commissions:

- Telecommunications & Connectivity Advisory Board
- *dormant* Vermont Telecommunications Authority
- Public Safety Broadband Network Commission
- Enhanced 911 Board
- Vermont Communications Board
- *ad hoc* Statewide Interoperability Planning Committee
- *dormant* Vermont Interactive Technologies Coordinating Council
- Vermont Web Portal Board
- *repealed* Vermont GIS Advisory Board
- *expired* Information Resource Management Advisory Council

Consolidates classified positions of current & dormant initiatives:

Council will be staffed by existing positions --- approximately 10-12 and a Director)

- Enhanced 911 - mapping / GIS / vendor management
- Connectivity Division - managing State owned fiber & antenna locations
- Natural Resources Board - wireless facilities mapping inventory
- Vermont Center for Geographic Information mapping and data sharing