

Three amendments to H. 513 from Town of Shrewsbury (two pages)

Amendment #1. To ensure against risk of 911 service loss, add a new Finding and add wording to two sections of the Bill (Sec. 11, STUDY, and Sec. 15, BROADBAND EXPANSION LOAN PROGRAM) as follows:

a) Add a new Finding #11:

Facilities-based, fixed voice telephone service that is not line-powered is dependent on an electric power source. Loss of electric power prevents access to E911 phone service, unless a backup power source is in place. The Federal Communications Commission requires broadband providers to offer a minimum of 24 hours of standby backup battery power (FCC PS Docket No. 14-174), but batteries can expire in an extended power outage. Replacing traditional line-powered phone service in these rural communities can leave residents without access to E911 service during an electric power outage, endangering health and safety. Therefore, any expansion of broadband services in rural Vermont must incorporate a plan to ensure uninterrupted access to E911 service that is based on more than sole reliance on subscriber battery backup.

b) In Sec. 11(a). STUDY, at page 13 of 27, line 21, after the phrase "...financial risk to the electric companies....", replace period with a comma, and continue:

"and a plan to maintain access to E911 services in any proposed expansion of non-line-powered telephone service."

c) In Sec. 15, which amends 10 V.S.A. chapter 12, to add a new subchapter 14, Section 280ee. BROADBAND EXPANSION LOAN PROGRAM, after subdivision (c)(3)(C) thereof, at page 20 of 27, after line 14 and before proposed subdivision (d), add:

"(D) Include a specific plan to maintain access to E911 services to customers in any broadband expansion of non-line-powered telephone service. The plan shall address (1) technology and equipment, (2) design and engineering, (3) financing of installation and operation, and (4) monitoring and supervision of performance, and 5) any other parameters that the Authority, in consultation with the Department of Public Service, shall require to ensure access to 911 service.

Amendment #2: To provide information, outreach, technical and financial assistance to consumers and communities, add a new subsection to Sec. 11 as follows:

In Sec. 11, after subsection (b) on page 14 of 27, lines 5 through 21 (*or as a new paragraph of subsection (b)*), add a new subsection (c) as follows, and reletter remaining subsections:

(c) In performing the feasibility study required by this section, the Commissioner, in consultation with the Public Utility Commission, shall define a best practices approach for providing consumer information and conducting community outreach and for providing technical and financial assistance to

consumers and communities so as to reduce the risk of loss of telephone and emergency 911 service during an electric power outage due to the dependency of broadband technologies on the availability of electric power and shall propose the most cost effective and technologically efficient ways in which broadband providers or alternative entities can provide such information and assistance.

Amendment #3. To require reporting by telecommunication companies of loss of E911 service during power outages, add a new stand alone section:

No later than sixty (60) days from enactment, the Enhanced 9-1-1 Board shall promulgate a rule requiring all providers of facility-based, fixed voice telephone service that is not line-powered to report to the Board within 24 hours any outage in their systems such that more than ten (10) subscribers lose the capacity to make an emergency 911 telephone call. An outage for purposes of this subsection is any loss of E911 calling capacity, whether caused by lack of function of the subscriber's backup power equipment, lack of function within the provider's system, or by any other factor external to the provider's system, including but not limited to an outage in the electric power system.

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