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This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

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**Act No. 71 (H.360). Broadband; Vermont Community Broadband Board**

**An act relating to accelerated community broadband deployment**

This act establishes the Vermont Community Broadband Board to oversee and manage the newly created Vermont Community Broadband Fund. In addition, it establishes preconstruction and construction grant programs for broadband projects, as well as centralized resources for communications union districts (CUDs). The act also limits eligible borrowers under the Broadband Expansion Loan Program to CUDs and to Internet service providers working in conjunction with either a CUD or a municipality that was not part of a CUD prior to June 1, 2021. The act creates a property tax exemption applicable to new fiber installations owned by an electric distribution utility, provided the fiber is leased to a CUD or an Internet service provider working in conjunction with a CUD. Finally, the act establishes several communications workforce initiatives.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 8, 2021