Introduced by Senators Pearson, Lyons and Sirotkin

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Communications; company-owned equipment; consumer fees;
rulemaking

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to regulate the
fees charged by communications providers for company-owned equipment
leased by a consumer.

An act relating to regulating consumer fees for communications equipment

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

Sec. 1. RENTAL FEES FOR COMPANY-OWNED COMMUNICATIONS
EQUIPMENT; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE;
RULEMAKING

The Commissioner of Public Service shall adopt a rule applicable to the
rental fees charged to consumers by communications providers for company-
owned communications equipment, such as routers, modems, and cable boxes.
The purpose of the rule is to prevent a provider from charging fees that are in
excess of a provider’s reasonable costs associated with such company-owned
equipment. The rule shall be consistent with the Television Viewer Protection Act of 2019, Pub. L. No. 116-94, particularly as it relates to transparency and disclosure requirements. The rule shall require a provider to notify the consumer whether the consumer has the option to purchase the equipment. If the consumer does not have the option to purchase the equipment from the provider, the provider shall include a disclaimer that the consumer may be able to purchase the equipment from another source.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.