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H.740

Draft amendments for SAC related to Broadband and E-911

Sec. W. 30 V.S.A. § 8083(b)(6) is amended to read:

(6) upon approval by the General Assembly, up to \$1,500,000.00 annually to fund the operational expenses of the Board and the Department to the extent the Department’s expenses support the work of the Board.

Sec. X. VERMONT COMMUNITY BROADBAND BOARD;

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES; ANNUAL BUDGET

(a) On or before December 1, 2022, the Vermont Community Broadband Board shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a proposed budget for its operational expenses for fiscal year 2023 for inclusion in the fiscal year 2023 budget adjustment act.

(b) On or before January 15, 2023, the Vermont Community Broadband Board shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a proposed budget for its operational expenses in fiscal year 2024 for inclusion in the Governor’s recommended fiscal year 2024 appropriations for the support of government.

(c) In preparing a proposed budget for its operational expenses, the Vermont Community Broadband Board shall maximize first the use of any

1 federal funds in the Vermont Community Broadband Fund or available to the
2 Board that are allocated for administrative costs, and then shall draw upon
3 monies transferred to the Vermont Community Broadband Fund pursuant to 30
4 V.S.A. § 7523(b).

5
6 Sec. XX VERMONT COMMUNITY BROADBAND BOARD

7 (a) In FY23 there is appropriated to the Vermont Community Broadband
8 Board a total \$1,500,000 from special funds to operate the board. The intent of
9 the section is provide the necessary spending authority for the board to operate
10 in fiscal year 2023 until a line item budget is included in the budget adjustment
11 for fiscal year 2023 pursuant to Sec. X

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14 Sec. Y. CONNECTIVITY FUND BALANCE; E-911 BUDGET

15 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year
16 2022, any balance remaining in the Connectivity Fund established under 30
17 V.S.A. § 7516 shall be available within the Universal Service Fund to fund the
18 budget of the E-911 Board.

19
20 Sec. Z. MUNICIPAL FUNDS FOR BROADBAND

1 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a municipality
2 may accept and finance broadband projects with funds received from the
3 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. 117-2, including funds received as
4 lost revenue.

5
6 **Amendment to existing House-passed Sec. G.500 (new language in bold)**

7 Sec. G.500 BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY INVESTMENTS

8 (a) \$69,380,816 is appropriated in fiscal year 2023 to the Department of
9 Public Service, Vermont Community Broadband Board from the American
10 Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund in order to
11 support the State’s goal of achieving universal access to reliable, high-quality,
12 affordable broadband. This appropriation shall be transferred to the Vermont
13 Community Broadband Fund to make grants through the Broadband
14 Construction Grant Program. These funds are in addition to \$25,619,184 in
15 funds provided for the same purpose in fiscal year 2023 from the ARPA -
16 Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund.

17 **(b) To the greatest extent possible and for the purpose of maximizing**
18 **the availability of federal funds for State broadband projects, the ARPA**
19 **monies appropriated in this section shall be used first to fund any match**
20 **requirements applicable to broadband grants funded by the**
21 **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.**