

1 H.633

2 Introduced by Representative Sibia of Dover

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Utilities; telephone companies; sales and leases; legislative approval

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require

7 legislative approval of certain sales and leases of property owned by a

8 telephone company subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utility

9 Commission.

10 An act relating to legislative approval of telephone property sales and leases

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

12 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

13 The purpose of this act is to ensure that the sale or lease of property owned

14 by a telecommunications company subject to the jurisdiction of the Public

15 Utility Commission receives comprehensive, statewide consideration with the

16 greatest opportunity for public engagement and consideration of the potential

17 implications for all Vermonters presently and in the future.

18 Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. § 109(a) is amended to read:

19 (a)(1) Except in connection with replacement or exchange, a corporation or

20 a foreign corporation subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utility

1 Commission shall not make a sale or lease or series of sales or leases in any
2 one calendar year constituting 10 percent or more of the company's property
3 located within this State and actually used in or required for public service
4 operations nor merge nor consolidate pursuant to the provisions of sections
5 301–307 of this title, nor after any such sale, lease, consolidation, or merger
6 shall any subsequent like action be taken, except after opportunity for hearing
7 by the Public Utility Commission and a finding by the Commission that the
8 same will promote the general good of the State and subject to approval by the
9 General Assembly under subdivision (2) of this subsection, if applicable. Such
10 notice of the hearing shall be given as the Commission directs. A certificate of
11 consent of the Public Utility Commission shall be filed with the Secretary of
12 State.

13 (2) Upon a finding by the Public Utility Commission that a sale or lease
14 of telecommunications property will promote the general good of the State as
15 required under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the sale or lease is subject to
16 final approval by the General Assembly through legislative enactment.

17 Sec. 3. APPLICATION

18 This act shall apply to any petition for the sale or lease of
19 telecommunications property pending before the Public Utility Commission on
20 or after January 1, 2024.

1 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on passage.