

Memorandum

Vermont Department of Public Service

To: Sen. Ruth Hardy, Chair, Senate Committee on Government Operations

From: Hunter Thompson, Director for Telecommunications and Connectivity

Subject: S.310 proposed changes

Date: March 25, 2024

This memo explains the Department of Public Service position on section 19 of draft 6.2 of S.310 which is currently scheduled to be introduced on 3/26/2024 to the Senate Committee on Government Operations.

The Department has engaged in conversations with the E-911 board since the original draft of S.310 was proposed and continues to be supportive of the effort to collect and use this information to further public safety for all the citizens of Vermont.

Removing the references to the Public Utility Commission and pivoting to requirements established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will provide consistency for originating carriers where there have at times been discussions in areas of potential coverage.

The additional provisions added in the draft amendment that are related to data confidentiality and security are a fair compromise to ensure the E-911 board has access to the information it needs to better serve the public good while simultaneously addressing concerns of the carriers as it relates to data privacy.

The Department is in favor of the proposed changes and find they provide clarity to the bill and will adequately provide the E-911 board with the information required to further the public good.