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H.657

Draft amendment to the House Proposal of Amendment:

First: In Sec. 10, 32 V.S.A. § 3602b, subsection (c), by striking out everything after “wireless towers”.

Second: By striking out Sec. 13a, 19 V.S.A. § 26a, and its accompanying reader assistance in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof Sec. 14 and accompanying reader assistance to read as follows:

* * * Study; Public ROW * * *

Sec. 14. STUDY; COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE;

RIGHT-OF-WAY

(a) The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Service and the Secretary of Digital Services, shall conduct a study concerning access to and use of the public right-of-way (ROW) in Vermont by telephone (wired and wireless) and broadband companies. In particular, the Secretary shall determine how the ROW is currently being accessed and used by such companies in Vermont and, in addition, shall review and assess how other jurisdictions outside Vermont manage and charge for such access and use.

(b) As used in this section, “public right-of-way” means the area on, below, along, across, or above a public roadway that is part of the State highway system.

1 (c) On or before October 15, 2025, the Secretary shall submit a written
2 report of the Secretary’s findings and recommendations to the Senate
3 Committees on Finance and on Transportation and the House Committees on
4 Ways and Means, on Transportation, and on Environment and Energy.

5 Third: By striking out Sec. 14, effective dates, in its entirety and inserting
6 in lieu thereof Sec. 15 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATES

8 This act shall take effect on passage, except that:

9 (1) Sec. 8 (PILOT Fund appropriation) shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

10 (2) Secs. 1–6 (VUSF contribution method; 988 funding) shall take effect
11 on July 1, 2025.

12 (3) Secs. 8–12 (communications property tax) shall take effect on July 1,
13 2025 and shall apply to grand lists lodged on or after April 1, 2025.