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H.406

Introduced by Representatives Carr of Brandon, Keenan of St. Albans City,
and Marcotte of Coventry

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Telecommunications; Telecommunications Technology Council

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish the
Telecommunications Technology Council.

An act relating to creation of the Telecommunications Technology Council

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

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 24 is added to read:

§ 24. TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

(a) There is created the Telecommunications Technology Council. The Council shall oversee and coordinate telecommunications and information technology investment, deployment, and reform efforts among Executive Branch agencies, departments, offices, and boards and make recommendations to the General Assembly on State telecommunications and information technology policy and planning. The mission of the Council is to:

(1) ensure universal broadband Internet access;

1 (2) ensure that basic principles of interconnectivity, community access,
2 equity, affordability, and efficient utilization of resources are pursued; and

3 (3) coordinate policy and avoid duplicative investments.

4 (b) It is the responsibility of the Council to advise the Governor on matters
5 related to telecommunications technology planning, development, and
6 funding by:

7 (1) bringing together various public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders
8 with an interest in developing telecommunications technology; and

9 (2) reviewing and providing final approval of the State
10 Telecommunications Plan developed pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 202d.

11 (c) The Council shall consist of:

12 (1) The Secretary of Administration or the Secretary of Transportation
13 or designee.

14 (2) The Secretary of Education.

15 (3) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development.

16 (4) The Chief Information Officer and Commissioner of the Department
17 of Information and Innovation.

18 (5) The Commissioner of Public Safety.

19 (6) The Secretary of State or designee.

20 (7) The Vermont State Treasurer or designee.

21 (8) A representative of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

1 (9) The President and Chief Executive Office of Vermont PBS or
2 designee.

3 (10) A representative of a communications union district established
4 under 30 V.S.A. chapter 82.

5 (11) A representative of the Vermont Electric Power Co., Inc. or of the
6 Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity, Inc.

7 (12) A representative of a regional development corporation as defined
8 under 24 V.S.A. § 2781.

9 (13) A municipal fire official.

10 (14) A representative of Vermont private colleges.

11 (15) A member of the public at large.

12 (d) The Governor shall select a chair and vice chair from among the
13 members of the Council. Members who are not ex officio shall be appointed
14 by the Governor subject to the advice and consent of the Senate and shall serve
15 terms of four years.

16 (e) From among its members, the Council shall form seven divisions. The
17 divisions shall have authority as identified in this subsection. The
18 divisions are:

19 (1) The Civilian Broadband Division. This Division shall be the
20 responsible State entity for broadband deployment and shall assume the
21 authority of the dormant Vermont Telecommunications Authority as provided

1 in 30 V.S.A. chapter 91 and of the Department of Public Service with respect
2 to the Connectivity Initiative established under 30 V.S.A. § 7515b.

3 (2) The Public Safety Division. This Division shall ensure the building,
4 deployment, and operation of a statewide, interoperable public safety
5 broadband network that meets the interoperability goals and specifications of
6 the FirstNet nationwide public safety broadband network. It shall assume the
7 authority of the Public Safety Broadband Network Commission established by
8 Executive Order No. 05-13 and the Vermont Communications Board
9 established by Executive Order No. 02-12. In addition, this Division shall
10 assume the authority and responsibilities of the Enhanced 911 Board
11 established under 30 V.S.A. chapter 87.

12 (3) The State Infrastructure Division. This Division shall have oversight
13 authority over State-owned telecommunications infrastructure and shall be
14 responsible for the leasing and management thereof, in coordination with the
15 Civilian Broadband Division, as appropriate.

16 (4) The Interoperability Division. This Division shall have oversight
17 authority over State policy and planning to ensure the development of
18 telecommunications facilities and networks that meet interoperability goals and
19 specifications. The Division shall review and make recommendations
20 regarding the State Telecommunications Plan required under 30 V.S.A.

1 § 202d, taking into consideration State policies related to education, economic
2 development, and public health initiatives.

3 (5) The Security and Privacy Division. This Division shall develop
4 standards and procedures related to telecommunications access, privacy,
5 pricing, and security.

6 (6) The Network Design Division. This Division shall develop
7 standards and procedures related to the development of shared, managed,
8 high-performance network design.

9 (7) The Public Access Division. This Division shall develop standards
10 and procedures for ensuring public access to State proceedings subject to the
11 Vermont Open Meeting Law established in 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 2,
12 and also to long-distance learning opportunities, and shall make
13 recommendations regarding the infrastructure necessary to achieve these goals,
14 such as interactive television and other technologies.

15 (f) The Council shall submit an annual report to the Governor and to the
16 General Assembly containing its findings and recommendations. The
17 provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), concerning the expiration of required reports,
18 shall not apply to the report required by this subsection.

19 (g) The Council shall be attached to the Agency of Administration for the
20 purpose of receiving administrative support.

1 (h) Except for members employed by the State, members of the Council
2 shall be entitled to the same per diem compensation as provided under
3 32 V.S.A. § 1010(a) and mileage reimbursement as provided under 32 V.S.A.
4 § 1267.

5 Sec. 2. STATUTORY REVISION

6 The Office of Legislative Council is directed to revise and recodify the
7 Vermont Statutes Annotated consistent with the purposes of this act.

8 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.