

1 H.632

2 Introduced by Representative Sibia of Dover

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Broadband; Vermont Community Broadband Board; transfer plan

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish
7 statutory criteria for the Vermont Community Broadband Board to consider
8 when developing a transfer plan prior to its sunset in 2029.

9 An act relating to the Vermont Community Broadband Board and a transfer
10 plan

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

12 Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 8089a is amended to read:

13 § 8089a. SUNSET; TRANSFER PLAN

14 (a) The Fund and Board shall cease to exist on July 1, 2029.

15 (b) As part of its annual report submitted on or before January 15, 2029, the
16 Board shall develop a plan for transferring its assets, liabilities, and legal and
17 contractual obligations to another appropriate State entity. The Board may
18 include in its report a recommendation regarding the continued existence of the
19 Board beyond its statutory sunset date. In developing the plan required by this
20 subsection, the Board shall consider and report on the following:

1 (1) the implementation status of any broadband project financed under
2 this chapter;

3 (2) the implementation status of the Digital Equity Plan;

4 (3) the long-term financial sustainability of the projects financed under
5 this chapter;

6 (4) the State entity best positioned to provide ongoing resources or
7 support for communications union districts, when and if needed;

8 (5) how existing State funding mechanisms for broadband projects
9 should be structured, financed, and administered;

10 (6) opportunities that would allow Board staff to continue providing
11 their acquired expertise to State programs and initiatives;

12 (7) progress made in achieving the State's goal of achieving universal
13 access to reliable, high-quality, affordable, fixed broadband; and

14 (8) any other matters deemed appropriate by the Board.

15 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on passage.