

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2617

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE TRENT.

6657H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 394, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to broadband communications services provided by rural electric cooperatives.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 394, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 394.085, to read as follows:

394.085. 1. The general assembly declares that expanding and accelerating access to high-speed broadband communications services throughout the entire state of Missouri is necessary, desirable, in the best interests of the citizens of this state, and that it is a public purpose of great importance.

2. In recognition that the high capital cost of deploying fiberoptics technologies to provide broadband communications services impedes access to such services, and the rural electric cooperatives deploy fiberoptics technologies for use in the operation of their electric system infrastructure, it is the intent of the general assembly to facilitate and to encourage rural electric cooperatives and their broadband affiliates, either collectively or individually, to continue to enter into and establish voluntary contracts or other forms of joint or cooperative agreements for the use of rural electric cooperative infrastructure in providing access to broadband services.

3. For purposes of this section, the term "rural electric cooperative" shall include an electrical corporation as defined in subsection 2 of section 393.110.

4. Nothing in this section shall be construed as conferring to the public service commission any regulatory jurisdiction not granted over any contract or other form of

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 **joint or cooperative agreement entered into under this section, or over the parties to such**
18 **contract or agreement.**

19 **5. Nothing in this section shall be construed as diminishing the rights of property**
20 **owners under the laws of this state.**

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