

SENATE BILL 776

By Massey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 52, Part 4 and Title 7, Chapter 59, Part 3, relative to the Tennessee broadband task force.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-52-408, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-52-409, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-52-410, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-59-311(d), is amended by deleting subdivision (2) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following new language:

(2) It is the legislative intent that in measuring compliance with this section, the department may rely upon verification provided by Connected Tennessee, as to the expansion of access to broadband Internet service to households by a holder of a state-issued certificate of franchise authority.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-59-315(b), is amended by deleting subdivision (1) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following new language:

(1) Moneys shall be deposited into the fund as provided by law or provisions of the general appropriation act. Moneys in the fund shall be used by the department to promote the deployment of broadband Internet service to unserved areas of the state pursuant to guidelines developed by the department in consultation with Connected Tennessee. The guidelines shall provide for the making of grants to political subdivisions

or entities of political subdivisions, cable service providers, video service providers, telecommunications companies, and similar entities as the department may determine.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.