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S.255

Introduced by Senators Pearson, Lyons and Sirotkin

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Communications; company-owned equipment; consumer fees;  
rulemaking

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to regulate the fees charged by communications providers for company-owned equipment leased by a consumer.

An act relating to regulating consumer fees for communications equipment

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

Sec. 1. RENTAL FEES FOR COMPANY-OWNED COMMUNICATIONS  
EQUIPMENT; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE;  
RULEMAKING

The Commissioner of Public Service shall adopt a rule applicable to the rental fees charged to consumers by communications providers for company-owned communications equipment, such as routers, modems, and cable boxes.  
The purpose of the rule is to prevent a provider from charging fees that are in excess of a provider's reasonable costs associated with such company-owned

1 equipment. The rule shall be consistent with the Television Viewer Protection  
2 Act of 2019, Pub. L. No. 116-94, particularly as it relates to transparency and  
3 disclosure requirements. The rule shall require a provider to notify the  
4 consumer whether the consumer has the option to purchase the equipment. If  
5 the consumer does not have the option to purchase the equipment from the  
6 provider, the provider shall include a disclaimer that the consumer may be able  
7 to purchase the equipment from another source.

8 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on passage.