

CCS #2 SS SCS HB 1768

This bill modifies provisions related to communication services.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (Sections 67.453 and 67.1461, RSMo)

This bill modifies the powers of neighborhood improvement districts and community improvement districts to include the ability to partner with telecommunications companies or broadband service providers in order to construct or improve telecommunications facilities.

LINEAR FOOT FEES (Section 67.1846)

A grandfathered political subdivision shall not charge a linear foot fee for use of its right-of-way to a small local exchange telecommunications company as of December 31, 2019, as defined in the bill; provided that the small local exchange telecommunications company is providing Internet access to customers within rural areas of the state.

UNIFORM SMALL WIRELESS FACILITY DEPLOYMENT ACT (Section 67.5122)

This bill extends the sunset date for the Uniform Small Wireless Facility Deployment Act from January 1st, 2021, to January 1st, 2025.

OPERATING DESIGNATIONS OF CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES (Section 392.020)

Under the bill, any corporation formed for the purpose of being a telephone or telegraph company or operating under the General and Business Corporation Law of Missouri, may amend the articles of association to include a statement referencing the corporation's operating designation as an exempt organization as described in the Internal Revenue Code.

RURAL BROADBAND ACCESS FUNDING (Sections 620.2451, 620.2456 and 620.2459)

This bill requires the Department of Economic Development to maintain a record of all federal grants awarded to entities for the purposes of providing, maintaining, and expanding rural broadband in the state. In cases in which federal funds have been awarded but later retained, withheld, or otherwise not distributed to the original grant recipient due to failure to meet performance standards or other criteria, the Department of Economic Development will seek to have the funds awarded to another eligible, qualified

Missouri broadband provider.

Under this bill, a grant recipient of funds from the Missouri Broadband Grant Program must return such funds if the grant recipient fails to establish retail broadband Internet speeds of at least 25 megabits per-second download and three megabits per-second upload).

Currently, the broadband Internet grant program for unserved and underserved areas of the state will expire on August 28, 2021. This bill extends the program until June 30, 2027.