

Energy and Technology Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7152

Title: AN ACT ACCELERATING THE DEPLOYMENT OF 5G WIRELESS FACILITIES.

Vote Date: 3/12/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/5/2019

File No.: 147

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Energy and Technology Committee
Governor's Office
Rep. Joe Aresimowicz, 30th Dist.
Rep. Matthew Ritter, 1st Dist.
Sen. Martin M. Looney, 11th Dist.
Sen. Bob Duff, 25th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Governor Lamont acknowledged that the next generation of cellular data transmission can help facilitate economic growth, create new jobs, improve high speed internet accessibility and is the future of telecommunications. This next stage of cellular data transmission has been termed "5G" or 5th Generation and rollout calls for updates to a variety of regulations and standards regarding the placement of the necessary equipment needed to transmit the 5G signals. The bill that was introduced calls for the regulatory agencies to work out a collection of logistical standards so that the telecommunication companies have a set of rules for installing all the new equipment and begin the first steps of creating the necessary backbone to support 5G service. The bill also calls for creating a council of regulators and stakeholders that will meet and discuss best practices around 5G implementation.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Katie S. Dykes – Department of Energy & Environmental Protection \(DEEP\)](#): DEEP is in support of this bill and its focus on encouraging connectivity and expanding access to superior internet speeds. DEEP feels the implementation of 5G wireless networks will help Connecticut achieve its goal of attracting and retaining skilled employment opportunities and supporting the development of future technology. DEEP states they will work with the

committee to guarantee that DEEP controlled land with small cell facilities will provide the top product while being responsibly managed.

[Elin S. Katz – Office of Consumer Counsel \(OCC\)](#): The OCC is in strong support of this bill which they feel will provide solutions to issues pertaining to the overseeing of installations of the various wireless facilities needed in preparation of 5G rollout. OCC requests a language change that would include them in the group with Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), Office of Policy and Management and municipality leaders during discussions around the siting process. The OCC feels the transition towards 5G networks should be efficient and will offer high speed internet at low prices to customers and residents.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[AARP](#): AARP supports the bill and feel it will create a more transparent process in the siting and rollout of 5G throughout the state. They are also in favor of setting up a group to supervise the installment of these cell facilitates on state-owned land. AARP suggests that the placement of the smaller towers and wireless facilities in urban areas should be taken on by thoughtfully working with the residents and the local government. AARP believes that the proper layout of 5G networks, including equipment on public land, will benefit CT in moving forward with the new technology.

[Altice](#): Altice is in support of the support of the Governor's plan to expand the states broadband connectivity however they request the language of the bill to include that the cable companies will enjoy the same streamlined access to the poles as the wireless industry. They state that wireless and *wireline* infrastructure language should be included in the bill. They make this request because if the bill is inclusive of both industries the state will be able streamline the rollout of both their new technologies which include 5G cellular and next gen wifi products.

Joined by:

[Timothy Wilkerson – New England Cable & Telecommunications Association \(NECTA\)](#):

[AT&T](#): AT&T strongly supports the intent of this bill and feels it will allow for the growth of new technology and expand 5G networks. They state how the new technology will allow for enhancements in autonomous vehicles, wireless medical services, and enhanced virtual & augmented reality. AT&T believes the current Connecticut regulations and guidelines on the 5G network implementation for small cell deployment are efficient and welcome any improvements. AT&T feels there are opportunities to include additional stakeholders, such as cable companies and wireline products that could help with rollout. Finally they appreciate the forming of a council that will help facilitate conversations with regulators and the industry on best practices and rollout.

[Donna Hamzy Carroccia – Connecticut Conference of Municipalities \(CCM\)](#):

CCM supports the bill and specifically the section that includes the forming of a council to advance in the rollout process of 5G technology. They also support the provisions that request input from CCM for the placement of small cells.

[Bethanne Cooley – CTIA](#): CTIA supports this bill with certain amendments. They are suggesting new policies for the deployment of 5G networks throughout the state. CTIA feels

the new technology will provide beneficial services including improved healthcare solutions and superior autonomous transportation but feel that updates to the language of the bill are necessary aligning the siting process to apply properly with the current technology. CTIA is in full support of a streamlined framework for 5G rollout and offers their assistance in aligning the bill with current technologies so rollout is as seamless as possible.

[David Lamendola – Verizon](#): Verizon believes all the parties including state and local governments should collaborate allowing the current 4G networks to grow and enable capacity for the superior 5G. Verizon feels the new wireless networks will provide significant benefits to the state including enhanced economic investment opportunities, virtual and augmented reality creation, device connectivity, and a boosted industry for driverless cars. They request that the implementation process is clear and streamlined as well as establishes one singular uniform process for applying for installation of the small cell equipment.

[Vincent Pace – Eversource](#): Eversource requests that language in Section 2 is clarified to clearly establish when a pole will be used for the installation of small cells and would like additional clarity defining what “municipal property” means in the same section.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Offered

Reported by: Ethan J. Meskill

Date: 3/26/19