Bill No.: HB-7376
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING NEXUS PROVISIONS FOR CERTAIN DISASTER-RELATED OR EMERGENCY-RELATED WORK PERFORMED IN THE STATE.
Vote Date: 4/30/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 4/10/2019
File No.: 

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
The purpose of H.B. 7376 is to remove the tax and regulatory burdens on critical out-of-state infrastructure companies and their employees when they respond to a natural disaster in Connecticut.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
None provided.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

AT&T Communications, Inc.
AT&T expressed the importance of being able to ensure that businesses are able to respond to the needs of the state and its population during a time of natural disaster. AT&T deemed it necessary for this legislation to pass for the purpose of “getting critical infrastructure back up and running” following a natural disaster. They stated twenty-nine other states have enacted similar legislation. Included in their testimony, AT&T provided a suggested amendment to include telecommunications companies in the final language of the bill.

Frontier Communications, Vice President, Michael J. Cicchetti
Mr. Cicchetti testified on the importance of this legislation. Frontier currently operates in 29 states and this legislation will remove problems the company faces when trying to deploy workers to areas stricken by natural disasters. Furthermore, he testified that removing
hurdles such as registration and licensure requirements for temporary workers can provide a quicker, more effective response following a natural disaster.

**New England Cable & Telecommunications Association, Vice President, Timothy Wilkerson**

NECTA testified that this legislation would “mitigate” hurdles and unintended consequences of state compliance requirements. This legislation would help in bringing temporary workers into the state to assist in restoration of resources during severe weather. NECTA also stated in their testimony that this legislation would expedite service to critically damaged areas and lessen the burden on Connecticut’s citizens and the economy following a natural disaster.

**CTIA, Gerard Keegan**

Mr. Keegan testified on the reliance of wireless service in recent years. He notes that there is a need for flexibility in bringing out-of-state personnel and equipment into Connecticut when critical times such as natural disasters have occurred. CTIA requests an amendment to include wireless companies within the final language of the bill.

**Carolyn Ridley**

Ms. Ridley submitted testimony in support of HB 7376 noting that disasters can sever the networks upon which many of us rely on. Critical infrastructure companies, including telecommunications companies like CenturyLink, rush into disaster zones to try to start the recovery as quick as possible. Applying normal tax and regulatory requirements during a disaster creates unnecessary obstacles to restoring critical infrastructure.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None provided.

**Reported by:** Cassandra Gallion  
**Committee Clerk**  
**Date:** 5/6/2019