

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-6442

AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO BROADBAND. AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 9750

File Copy No.: 262

House Calendar No.: 216

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 22 \$ | FY 23 \$ |
|--|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Policy & Mgmt., Off. | CC&PUCF - Cost | 469,399 | 381,452 |
| Policy & Mgmt., Off. | CC&PUCF - Revenue Gain | 469,399 | 381,452 |
| Department of Energy and Environmental Protection | FF - Cost | See Below | See Below |

Note: CC&PUCF=Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund; FF=Federal Funds

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact.

The amendment establishes a grant program administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for the purpose of broadband deployment and requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to develop statewide broadband mapping.

The amendment results in a cost to OPM of \$469,399 in FY 22 and \$381,452 in FY 23 to hire consultants to assist with the development of the statewide broadband maps. The amendment also results in a corresponding revenue gain to the Consumer Counsel and Public

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Utility Control (PUC) Fund by increasing existing assessments on public service companies to cover associated costs.

The grant program established is subject to the availability of federal funding and is therefore not anticipated to result in a cost to the General Fund or the PUC fund in FY 22 or FY 23. It is anticipated that DEEP will need to hire 3 staff members for the purpose of program development and grant administration at a cost of \$506,500 in FY 22 and \$521,700 in FY 23 to be funded by federal sources.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) provides state funding specifically for the development of broadband infrastructure. Presumably, any such ARPA funding designated by the legislature would be used to fund administrative costs and grants provided to applicants of the program.

The amendment also requires the State Building Inspector to revise the State Building Code. This provision does not result in a fiscal impact.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.