

HB 759 -- VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDERS

SPONSOR: Bondon

This bill changes the laws relating to video service providers. Prior to January 1, 2021, franchise entities may collect a video service provider fee from video service providers as specified in the bill. On and after January 1, 2021, every video service provider and competitive video service provider shall pay a fee to the Department of Revenue of no more than 3% of gross revenues from video service or competitive video service provided to subscribers in the state.

The department must request certain information from video service providers and competitive video service providers to calculate and establish the rate of the fee to be charged to such providers. The fee must be paid annually to the department on or after January 30 following the calendar year for which the fee is imposed.

Fees shall be collected by the department and deposited in the Video Fee Fund created in the bill. Moneys in the fund are not deemed to be state funds, are not to be deposited in the State Treasury, commingled with any funds of the state, or subject to appropriation by the General Assembly. The department must distribute money in the fund as follows:

- (1) No more than 1% of the money in the fund is to be transferred to the state's General Revenue Fund for the actual costs of collection and administration of the fee;
- (2) An amount equal to 100% of the 2019 Video Service Provider Fee Base is to be allocated and distributed among each franchise entity that imposed a video service provider fee on or before January 1, 2019; and
- (3) All remaining funds are to be transferred to the Rural Broadband Fund to expand access to broadband Internet service in unserved and underserved areas of the state.

This bill is the same as SB 273 (2019).