

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that procurement, installation, and operation of rural broadband telecommunication services through rural broadband cooperatives in accordance with this Act shall be accomplished with the assistance of federal financial aid and with resource sharing with private entities to the greatest extent practicable.~~

~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That nothing in this Act may be construed to impair or otherwise alter the authority of any cooperative other than a rural broadband cooperative formed under § 5-6C-01 of the Corporations and Associations Article, as enacted by this Act, to provide broadband telecommunication service of any kind in the State.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, for fiscal years 2008 and 2009, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill a general fund appropriation to the Rural Broadband Assistance Fund established under Article 83A, § 5-1902 of the Code, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, of at least \$4,000,000 in each fiscal year, of which at least \$2,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be from the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund.

(b) If the Rural Broadband Assistance Fund receives more than \$2,000,000 from the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund in fiscal year 2007, then, for fiscal year 2009 only, the funding specified in subsection (a) of this section may be reduced by the amount by which the 2007 fiscal year funding from the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund exceeds \$2,000,000.

~~SECTION 4. 2, 3, AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 14 years and, at the end of June 30, 2020, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~

Approved May 2, 2006.

CHAPTER 270

(Senate Bill 765)

AN ACT concerning

Workers' Compensation - Presumptions - Lyme Disease

FOR the purpose of repealing a requirement that a paid law enforcement employee of the Department of Natural Resources demonstrate that the employee received a certain Lyme disease vaccination in order to qualify for a presumption of a compensable occupational disease under workers' compensation law; making a conforming change; and generally relating to presumptions of compensability under workers' compensation law.