

SENATE BILL 1547

By Rochelle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 65, Chapter 25, and Title 7, Chapter 52, relative to electric cooperatives and municipal electric plants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 65-25-205, is amended by adding the following new subsection thereto:

Each electric cooperative shall have the authority to provide other community services including but not limited to telecommunications, cable television, water and sewer services, natural gas, propane, and other energy sources in a joint venture with any entity that is a franchise holder or service provider offering or providing services at the time the joint venture is created, whether publicly or privately owned, with the mutual agreement of all parties in the joint venture. This section shall not affect in any way existing authority to provide community services. All requirements of law applicable to the provision of any such community service shall apply to any such joint venture. The term "joint venture" shall mean any form of jointly owned entity including but not limited to partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, business corporation, and non-profit corporation.

SECTION 2. To the extent contrary to the provisions of this Act, Tennessee Code Annotated Sections 65-25-202(3), 65-25-205(a)(13)(c), 65-25-227, 65-25-228, and 65-25-229 are repealed.

SECTION 3. Every municipality operating an electric plant described in Section 7-52-401 has the power and is authorized on behalf of its municipality acting through the authorization of the board or supervisory body having responsibility for the municipal electric plant, to acquire, construct, own, improve, operate, lease, maintain, sell, mortgage, pledge or otherwise dispose of any system, plant, or equipment for the provision of cable service, two-way video transmission, video programming, internet access, internet service, or any other like service, or any other like system, plant, or equipment within and/or without the corporate or county limits of such municipality, and, with the consent of such other municipality, within the corporate or county lines of any other municipality. A municipality shall only be authorized to provide cable service, two-way video transmission, video programming, internet access or other like service through its board or supervisory body having responsibility for the municipality's electric plant.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.