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### Legislative History Memo

I was assigned Chapter 33 of the Acts of 2009 – An Act providing for economic recovery through broadband initiatives. Governor Patrick initially recommended this bill to the House on April 24, as part of his economic recovery package. The House initially referred the bill to the Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy as House 4076, but the Senate non-concurred, and referred the bill to the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. The House then concurred in the Senate's action. In July, the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies reported the bill favorably and referred it to the House Committee on Ways and Means. On July 14, the House Committee on Ways and Means recommended that the bill should pass, but with an amendment. It substituted House 4158, which the House referred to the House Committee On Steering, Policy, and Scheduling. Both the House and the Senate passed House 4158, and Governor Patrick signed it into law on July 16, 2009.

I began my search for legislative history by finding the Bill History for House 4158, the version of the bill finally passed by the House and Senate. I then traced backwards to find previous versions of the bill. This led to House 4076, and the original bill language proposed by Governor Patrick. I also found the Bill History for House 4076. Using the Bill histories as guides, I was able to search the House and Senate journals, and found all the instances in which the House or Senate took action on the either version of the bill.

I then searched State House News for materials on the bill. What I found was that this bill was essentially tied in with various other parts of the Governor's economic recovery package. The news services essentially treated the broadband bill as part of a larger legislative action. State House News had taped testimony for the broader economic package, but none of it related directly to the broadband bill. I was not able to find either a committee report or testimony notes. I called both the House and Senate Counsel's offices for the Committee on economic Development and Emerging Technologies. Neither had notes for testimony on the broadband bill. I did go to the State House to pick up a list of the

people that testified, but this turned out to be a list for the wrong bill. I was not able to find a list for House 4076.

In the end, I found very little in the way of legislative history, other than the House and Senate journals: I took these, and organized them chronologically, which I thought laid out the timeline of the bill the best.