



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 89**

January Session, 2001

Senate Bill No. 20

*Senate, April 2, 2001*

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through SEN. PETERS of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

### **AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAMMING.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Subsection (b) of section 16-3331 of the general statutes is repealed  
2 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (b) Each such company shall provide each subscriber with a  
4 description of the company's billing practices at the time of the initial  
5 subscription and at least annually thereafter. Such description shall  
6 include billing period and frequency, security deposit requirements,  
7 late payment charges, returned check charges, credits for service  
8 outages, pay-per-view billing procedures, charges and billing  
9 procedures for the use of addressable converters, traps or other devices  
10 or services which enable subscribers to voluntarily block transmission  
11 of specific programming to their homes or places of business and such  
12 other items as the Department of Public Utility Control may require.  
13 Each company shall file a copy of its billing practices with the

14 department and shall give notice to the department and each  
15 subscriber not less than forty-five days prior to implementing any  
16 changes in such practices. Every bill to subscribers of a community  
17 antenna television service shall contain (1) the date on which any  
18 individually chargeable service is rendered, (2) each rate or charge  
19 levied, (3) the amount due for the current billing period separate from  
20 any prior balance due, (4) the specific date by which payment is due,  
21 (5) such other items as the department may require, (6) the company's  
22 telephone numbers, including any toll-free numbers, (7) the  
23 Department of Public Utility Control's consumer assistance telephone  
24 number, [and] (8) the mailing address of the company's advisory  
25 council, and (9) a mechanism by which a subscriber may indicate that  
26 such subscriber has included with the payment a contribution of not  
27 less than one dollar in support of community access programming  
28 within the company's franchise area. Each company shall provide each  
29 subscriber, quarterly, with a summary of the procedures for resolving  
30 subscriber complaints and for providing refund or credit for service  
31 interruptions, pursuant to section 16-333e, and a notice indicating that,  
32 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 16-333i, the company is required  
33 to restore interrupted service not later than twenty-four hours after  
34 being notified by a subscriber that service has been interrupted. Each  
35 bill insert or letter to subscribers, other than promotional material,  
36 shall contain the company's telephone numbers, including any toll-free  
37 numbers or any other free calling option, as approved by the  
38 department and the Department of Public Utility Control's consumer  
39 assistance telephone number. Each advisory council, in conjunction  
40 with the company, shall notify subscribers of the time and place of any  
41 upcoming advisory council meeting, of any vacancies that may exist  
42 on the advisory council and of the name of the council chairperson and  
43 address of the advisory council. The notification may be provided via  
44 the community antenna television system at a sufficient frequency that  
45 subscribers may reasonably be expected to become aware of the  
46 meeting or by publishing on a quarterly basis the information in a

47 newspaper having general circulation within each municipality in the  
48 franchise area.

**ET**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Affected Agencies:** Department of Public Utility Control

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation****State and Municipal Impact:**

Requiring each cable company to include a mechanism by which a subscriber may indicate that he has included an additional dollar to support public access programming, results in no state or municipal fiscal impact.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

SB 20

***AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY  
ACCESS PROGRAMMING.***

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires that each cable television bill include a mechanism by which a subscriber may indicate that he has included a payment of \$1 or more to support public access programming in the cable company's franchise area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 11 Nay 5