



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

**Proposed Bill No. 5938**

LCO No. 1816

Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:

REP. NAFIS, 27th Dist.

SEN. DOYLE, 9th Dist.

**AN ACT CONCERNING CABLE TELEVISION CONSUMER PROTECTION.**

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

1 That the general statutes be amended to (1) deem a local community  
2 antenna television advisory council or a designated independent  
3 community access provider as an aggrieved party for purposes of  
4 appealing an order or decision of the Department of Public Utility  
5 Control relating to sections 16-331 to 16-331n, inclusive, of the general  
6 statutes, except for the granting or denial of a new or renewed cable  
7 franchise; (2) require the department to establish, by regulations, a  
8 formal review of the performance of each cable company during each  
9 successive three-year segment of its franchise term; (3) require the  
10 department to state its reasons for refusal to implement  
11 recommendations in a community needs assessment developed  
12 pursuant to subsection (f) of section 16-331 of the general statutes; (4)  
13 allow any certificate of public convenience or necessity to require  
14 community access interconnection with an existing or potential  
15 competitor; (5) in multitown franchise areas having town-specific

16 community access channels, encourage the formation and  
17 development of local community access studios operated by local  
18 volunteers or local nonprofit operating groups; (6) to define "good  
19 cause" for purposes of performing an independent audit pursuant to  
20 subsection (h) of section 16-331a of the general statutes; (7) require a  
21 cable franchise advisory council to make recommendations to resolve  
22 disputes regarding programming; (8) in areas where the cable  
23 company is the designated community access provider, allow the local  
24 advisory council to have input in the formulation of the community  
25 access budget and policy; (9) clarify in subsection (k) of section 16-331a  
26 of the general statutes that the funding mechanism established in said  
27 subsection (k) of section 16-331a was designated to provide a source of  
28 operating funds in addition to, and not in lieu of, the capital  
29 requirements of subsection (b) of said section 16-331a; (10) decentralize  
30 community access functions in multitown franchise areas; and (11)  
31 protect the public's right to free and unimpeded use of community  
32 access facilities.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To amend certain provisions of the law relating to cable services to benefit community access programming.