



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Proposed Bill No. 6132

LCO No. 2300

Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:

REP. FONTANA, 87th Dist.

REP. URBAN, 43rd Dist.

REP. HORNISH, 62nd Dist.

AN ACT PROMOTING PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION.

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

1 That the general statutes be amended to (1) require local cable
2 access advisory councils to mediate customer inquiries or complaints
3 regarding public access television within their service areas. Inquiries
4 or complaints may involve public access service, public access funding
5 allocation, access to production studios, quality of programming,
6 availability of town-specific programming and other public access
7 television issues. If any party is unsatisfied with such council's
8 proposed resolution of such inquiry or complaint, such party may
9 bring the party's issue to the Department of Public Utility Control. The
10 department shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 of
11 the general statutes to set forth the manner in which the department
12 shall handle such issues. Each community access provider shall notify
13 residents in its service area regarding contact information for the local
14 cable access advisory council; (2) allow employees of community
15 access providers to be members of local cable access advisory councils

16 and the advisory councils for companies issued certificates of cable
17 franchise authority; (3) make fifty per cent of the public, educational
18 and governmental programming and education technology investment
19 account available to studio operators whom the department requires to
20 file annual community access provider reports with the other fifty per
21 cent remaining available for education technology initiatives; (4)
22 require each community antenna television company or holder of a
23 certificate of cable franchise authority to provide to all of its
24 subscribers at least the number of community access channels,
25 including town-specific channels, that its predecessor community
26 antenna television company or its affiliate provided or made available
27 in a given area as of January 1, 2008; and (5) require that any
28 community antenna television company or nonprofit organization
29 providing community access operations that supplied original
30 programming from locally run operations and provided funding to
31 town-specific programming continue to fund town-specific
32 programming in such proportions to funding for original
33 programming from locally run operations as of January 1, 2008.

Statement of Purpose:

To promote public access television by maintaining its support and improving local participation in public access governance.