



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 104

February Session, 2016

* SB00104GAE__032316__ *

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE STATE CIVIC NETWORK.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (45) of subsection (a) of section 16-1 of the
2 2016 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following
3 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

4 (45) ["The Connecticut Television Network" means the General
5 Assembly's state-wide twenty-four-hour state public affairs
6 programming service, separate and distinct from community access
7 channels] "The State Civic Network" means the state-wide cable
8 programming channel and Internet web site established under section
9 2 of this act that provides (A) live and archived coverage of state
10 government and civic affairs, and (B) access to information about the
11 processes and actions of the legislative, executive and judicial
12 branches;

13 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) There is established a State
14 Civic Network to provide, through a dedicated, basic tier cable
15 programming channel and an Internet web site, television coverage,
16 live transmission of video and audio material over the Internet and
17 digital video archives of proceedings impacting the state, including,
18 but not limited to: (1) Legislative meetings, hearings and sessions; (2)
19 arguments before the Supreme Court, Appellate Court and Superior

20 Court; (3) executive state agency hearings and meetings; (4) public
21 policy discussions, debates, press conferences and civic events; (5)
22 election coverage and coverage related to the electoral process; and (6)
23 studio productions and educational videos providing additional
24 information on the working of the government of the state.

25 (b) The State Civic Network shall be managed by a nonprofit,
26 nonpartisan organization that is funded by subscribers of community
27 antenna television systems pursuant to 47 USC 531 et seq. and selected
28 in accordance with section 3 of this act. Such organization shall: (1)
29 Provide the staffing, institutional expertise and board governance to
30 operate the State Civic Network in a nonpartisan and independent
31 manner; (2) establish, maintain and revise as necessary operating
32 agreements with each branch of government; (3) maintain the State
33 Civic Network's operational and editorial independence in a manner
34 consistent with the provisions of such operating agreements; (4)
35 establish, maintain and revise as necessary carriage distribution and
36 retransmission agreements with appropriate video programming
37 services, including, but not limited to, cable television, direct broadcast
38 satellite and broadband video; and (5) provide, operate and maintain
39 all equipment and infrastructure needed for the programming,
40 engineering and distribution of State Civic Network programming.

41 (c) Each community antenna television company and each
42 multichannel video programming distributor shall include the State
43 Civic Network in its basic service package.

44 (d) As used in this section, "multichannel video programming
45 distributor" means a multichannel video programming distributor, as
46 defined in 47 CFR 76.1300, as amended from time to time, and includes
47 an owner of an open video system, as defined in 47 CFR 76.1500, as
48 amended from time to time.

49 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) The Public Utilities
50 Regulatory Authority shall issue a request for proposals and
51 subsequently assign responsibility for managing the State Civic

52 Network established under section 2 of this act for a period of ten
53 years to a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization located in the state that
54 the authority determines to be the most qualified, based on the
55 following criteria: (1) The organization's performance and experience
56 in providing gavel-to-gavel coverage of state government proceedings;
57 (2) the operating plan and technology plan submitted by the
58 organization for providing coverage of state government proceedings;
59 (3) the organization's proposed budget, including expenses for salaries,
60 consultants, attorneys and other professionals; (4) the quality and
61 quantity of the programming to be created, promoted, facilitated or
62 continued by the organization; (5) the organization's procedures to
63 ensure compliance with federal and state law, including the
64 regulations of Connecticut state agencies; and (6) any other criteria
65 determined to be relevant by the authority. At the conclusion of the
66 initial ten-year term, and every ten years thereafter, the authority shall
67 hold a hearing, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
68 general statutes, concerning the ability of the organization previously
69 selected to continue its responsibility for managing the State Civic
70 Network. In its decision following such a hearing, the authority may
71 assign the responsibility for management of the State Civic Network to
72 another organization or the previously selected organization in
73 accordance with the procedure set forth in this subsection.

74 (b) If an organization assigned responsibility for managing the State
75 Civic Network ceases to provide such management, such organization
76 shall transfer its network-related assets to the successor organization
77 assigned such responsibility or, if no successor organization is
78 assigned such responsibility, to another nonprofit organization within
79 the state selected by the authority.

80 (c) All assets related to the operation of the State Civic Network that
81 are owned by the state of Connecticut on June 30, 2016, shall be
82 transferred to the organization assigned responsibility for managing
83 the State Civic Network not later than ninety days after the authority's
84 issuance of a decision under subsection (a) of this section.

85 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) There is established a State
86 Civic Network Advisory Council. The council shall consist of the
87 following members: (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of
88 Representatives; (2) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the
89 Senate; (3) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of
90 Representatives; (4) one appointed by the minority leader of the
91 Senate; (5) four appointed by the Governor; and (6) four appointed by
92 the Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court.

93 (b) All initial appointments to the council shall be made not later
94 than September 1, 2016, and shall terminate on June 30, 2017, June 30,
95 2018, June 30, 2019, and June 30, 2020, respectively, as set forth in
96 subsection (d) of this section, regardless of when the initial
97 appointment was made.

98 (c) The Governor shall select the chairperson of the council from
99 among the members of the council. Such chairperson shall schedule
100 the first meeting of the council. The council shall meet at least twice a
101 year.

102 (d) Appointed members of the council shall serve for four-year
103 terms which shall commence on July first in the year of the
104 appointment, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section and
105 except that members first appointed shall have the following terms: (1)
106 One member appointed by the Governor, one member appointed by
107 the Chief Justice and the member appointed by the minority leader of
108 the House of Representatives, who shall each initially serve a term of
109 one year; (2) one member appointed by the Governor, one member
110 appointed by the Chief Justice and the member appointed by the
111 minority leader of the Senate, who shall each initially serve a term of
112 two years; (3) one member appointed by the Governor, one member
113 appointed by the Chief Justice and the member appointed by the
114 speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall each initially serve
115 a term of three years; and (4) one member appointed by the Governor,
116 one member appointed by the Chief Justice and the member appointed
117 by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall each initially

118 serve a term of four years. Members shall continue to serve until their
119 successors are appointed.

120 (e) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any
121 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for
122 the balance of the unexpired term.

123 (f) The members of the council shall serve without compensation.

124 (g) The council shall have the following powers and duties: (1) To
125 serve as a liaison between the nonprofit organization responsible for
126 managing the State Civic Network and the executive, judicial and
127 legislative branches; (2) to obtain from any executive, judicial or
128 legislative department, board, commission or other agency of the state
129 such assistance and data as necessary and available to carry out the
130 purposes of this section; (3) to accept any gift, donation or bequest for
131 the purpose of performing the duties described in this section; and (4)
132 to perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to
133 carry out the duties described in this section.

134 Sec. 5. Subsection (i) of section 16-331 of the general statutes is
135 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
136 *1, 2016*):

137 (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) and (d) of this
138 section, the authority shall not renew a franchise for a term of more
139 than five years if the authority determines that the person, association
140 or corporation, during the term of the prior franchise, has substantially
141 failed to (1) deal effectively with consumer requests, complaints and
142 billing or service questions and disputes; (2) provide quality and
143 diversity of programming; (3) maintain fair and reasonable rates for
144 basic and extended basic service, and associated equipment, taking
145 into consideration the quality of service and programming provided to
146 consumers; (4) provide quality community access programming,
147 including public access, educational access, governmental access
148 programming and the [Connecticut Television] State Civic Network or

149 its successor; or (5) meet commitments for service extension to
150 customers within the franchise area. Nothing in this subsection shall
151 authorize the authority to set specific rates for service or associated
152 equipment.

153 Sec. 6. Section 2-71x of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective July*
154 *1, 2016*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	16-1(a)(45)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	16-331(i)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	Repealer section

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*