OLR Bill Analysis
SB 677

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DELIVERY FORMAT OF COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAMMING.

SUMMARY

Existing law requires cable TV companies operating in the state to comply with community access requirements, including transmitting community access stations (see BACKGROUND). Under this bill, if a cable TV company receives community access programming in the same format as the company’s primary local broadcast signals, including high definition format, the company must broadcast the community access programming in that format. The bill does not require cable TV companies to upgrade any community access provider’s equipment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Community Access Requirements

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority is the state’s franchise authority for cable TV companies. Cable TV companies have community access programming requirements based on their type of certificate. But generally all certificate-holders must provide capacity for stations, provide funds for community access operations, and transmit stations, among other things (CGS §§ 16-331h & -331s).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 24  Nay 0  (03/14/2019)