

HOUSE No. 5970

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 1, 1982.

The committee on Government Regulations, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 430) of Philip L. Shea for legislation to increase the fee paid by subscribers of a municipal authority for community antenna television services; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2401) of Robert B. Ambler for legislation to provide for assessment of the costs of regulating cable television systems, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 5970) ought to pass.

For the committee,

ROBERT B. AMBLER.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Two.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ASSESSMENT OF THE COSTS OF REGULATING CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter one hundred sixty-six A of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out section nine and inserting in place thereof
3 the following new section nine: —

4 *Section 9.* No Application for a license to operate a CATV
5 system or for renewal, transfer or assignment of such a license shall
6 be considered by an issuing authority unless it is accompanied by
7 an application fee of one hundred dollars payable to the city or
8 town. A licensee, serving more than two hundred and fifty sub-
9 scribers, shall on or before March fifteenth of each year pay to the
10 commonwealth a license fee equal to the eighty cents per subscriber
11 served, and to the issuing authority a license fee equal to seventy-
12 five cents per subscriber served. In determining a license fee, the
13 number of subscribers served shall be measured as of December
14 thirty-first of the preceding calender year.

15 The Commission is hereby authorized to make an annual assess-
16 ment against each cable antenna television company under its
17 jurisdiction, based upon intrastate operating revenues of each of
18 such companies, derived from sales within the Commonwealth (as
19 shown on the annual report or annual statement of each of such
20 companies filed with the proper supervising agency). Said assess-
21 ments shall be in such amounts as shall be determined and certified
22 annually by the Commission as sufficient to produce \$200,000 in
23 revenue to the Commonwealth and shall be assessed proportion-
24 ately against each such company on the basis of said intrastate
25 operating revenues of each such company. All revenues raised as a
26 result of this assessment shall be used for the operation and general
27 administration of the Commission for the fiscal year in which the

28 assessments are made and any amount unexpended in such fiscal
29 year shall be credited against the assessment to be made in the
30 following year and the assessment in such following year shall be
31 reduced by such unexpended amount.

