

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

COMMUNITY ANTENNA TELEVISION COMMISSION
LEVERETT SALTONSTALL BUILDING
100 CAMBRIDGE STREET
BOSTON 02202

The Honorable Michael Connolly, *Secretary of the Commonwealth*
State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Secretary Connolly: In accordance with the provisions of section 2 of Chapter 166A of the General Laws, the Community Antenna Television Commission herewith submits a recommendation for consideration by the General Court in 1986. This recommendation is accompanied by a draft of the bill embodying the legislation recommended and an explanation of the proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSALIND A. NILES
Commissioner

*LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
COMMUNITY ANTENNA TELEVISION COMMISSION.*

A. Changes name of agency from "Community Antenna Commission" to "Cable Television Commission".

B. Adds a purpose clause clarifying the agency's broad objectives and establishing the agency's role in municipal assistance, adjudication of license compliance disputes and promotion of local programming.

C. Provides framework for license compliance hearing before the Commission.

D. Requires Commission certification of compliance license renewal process.

Recommendation of the Community Antenna Television Commission (House, No. 39). Government Regulations.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING CABLE TELEVISION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 166A of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out the caption "COMMUNITY
3 ANTENNA TELEVISION SYSTEMS" and inserting in place
4 thereof the following caption: — CABLE TELEVISION
5 SYSTEMS.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 166A of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by renumbering section 1 as section 1A and adding the
3 following section:

4 Section 1. Whereas the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
5 recognizes the public interest in the operation and services of cable
6 television companies, and whereas cable television involves public
7 rights-of-way, local licensing, and vital community and business
8 services, it is hereby declared the policy of the commonwealth to
9 regulate cable television companies as necessary to promote
10 orderly development of cable television in the commonwealth; to
11 provide oversight and municipal assistance during all phases of
12 system licensing and operation; to protect the consumer in the
13 cable television marketplace; to develop and promote local
14 programming in the community interest; to provide procedures
15 to adjudicate the rights and responsibilities of, and disputes
16 among, all parties affected by regulation under this chapter; and
17 to respond to other state, local or industry concerns in a manner
18 consistent with applicable statutes, regulations and policies of the
19 federal government.

1 SECTION 3. Clause (a) of section 1 of said chapter 166A is
2 hereby amended by striking out, in line 1, the words “community
3 antenna” and inserting in place thereof the word: — cable.

1 SECTION 4. Clause (b) section 1 of said chapter 166A is
2 hereby amended by striking out, in line 1, the words “community
3 antenna” and “CATV” and inserting in each place thereof the
4 words: — cable television.

1 SECTION 5. Section 1 of chapter 166A is hereby amended by
2 striking out clause (c), as appearing in section 1 of chapter 1103
3 of the acts of 1971, and inserting in place thereof the following
4 clause: —

5 (c) “Cable television operator” or “operator,” a person
6 operating a cable television system.

1 SECTION 6. The first paragraph of section 2 of chapter 166A,
2 as amended by section 2 of chapter 670 of the acts of 1979, is
3 hereby amended by striking out, in line 2, the words “community
4 antenna” and inserting in place thereof the word: — cable.

1 SECTION 7. The first paragraph of section 3 of said chapter
2 166A, as appearing in section 1 of chapter 1103 of the acts of 1971,
3 is hereby amended by striking out, in line 2, the word “CATV”
4 and inserting in place thereof the words: — cable television.

1 SECTION 8. Section 7 of said chapter 166A, as amended by
2 section 1 of chapter 249 of the acts of 1979, is hereby further
3 amended by striking out, in the last sentence, the word “CATV”
4 and inserting in place thereof the words: — cable television.

1 SECTION 9. Section 8 of said chapter 166A, as amended by
2 section 1 of chapter 402 of the acts of 1972, is hereby amended
3 by striking out, in 1, the word “CATV” and inserting in place
4 thereof the words: — cable television.

1 SECTION 10. Section 9 of the chapter 166A of the General
2 Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 552 of the acts of 1977,
3 is hereby amended by striking out in line 1, the word “CATV”
4 and inserting in place thereof the words: — cable television.

1 SECTION 11. Section 10 of said chapter 166A, as appearing
2 in section 1 of chapter 1103 of the acts of 1971, is hereby amended
3 by striking out, in line 1, the word "CATV" and inserting in place
4 thereof the words: — cable television.

1 SECTION 12. Chapter 166A of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after Section 10 the following section:

3 Section 10A. An issuing authority or licensee may, at any time,
4 request a hearing before the commission in order to compel a
5 determination that all parties to a license are in compliance
6 therewith. At its discretion, the commission may invoke its
7 authority to mediate any such dispute, or may provide a hearing
8 and make findings as to the rights and obligations of the parties
9 to a license. After any such hearing, the commission shall issue
10 a final written order advising all parties of the factual and legal
11 reasons supporting its decision. In its order, the commission may
12 require compliance by a licensee or issuing authority; require
13 modifications of the license; and make other determinations as
14 necessary to resolve the dispute and compel license compliance.
15 The commission, as part of its decision, may impose fines of up
16 to one thousand dollars per day for each separate violation of any
17 order issued under this section.

1 SECTION 13. Section 13 of chapter 166A of the General
2 Laws, as amended by section 10 of chapter 674 of the acts of 1975,
3 is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following
4 sentence: — The decision of the issuing authority to grant or deny
5 a request for renewal shall be final only upon issuance of a
6 certificate of compliance by the commission, or the expiration of
7 sixty days, whichever occurs first.

1 SECTION 14. The first sentence of section 15 of said chapter
2 166A, as amended by section 14 of chapter 674 of the acts of 1975,
3 is hereby amended by striking out, in line 5, the words "community
4 antenna" and inserting in place thereof the word: — cable.

1 SECTION 15. Said chapter 166A is hereby further amended
2 by striking out section 16 in its entirety and inserting in place
3 thereof the following new section: —

4 Section 16. The commission may after hearing issue such

5 standards and regulations as it deems appropriate to carry out
6 the purpose of this chapter for which purpose it may employ such
7 expert assistants as it deems necessary. The commission shall have
8 the authority to mediate between cities and towns and after
9 appropriate notice and hearing to make a final decision, in the
10 event of conflict in the exercise of jurisdiction to authorize or
11 regulate cable television systems. The commission shall also have
12 the authority to adjudicate license compliance issues if a hearing
13 is requested by the issuing authority or licensee. The commission
14 shall also represent the interests of the citizens of the
15 commonwealth before the Federal Communications Commission
16 and shall certify the performance of the cable television operators
17 under its jurisdiction to appropriate federal, state and local
18 authorities.

1 SECTION 16. Section 17 of said chapter 166A is hereby
2 amended by striking out, in line 3, the word "CATV" and inserting
3 in place thereof the words: — cable television.

1 SECTION 17. Section 19 of said chapter 166A, as amended
2 by section 16 of chapter 674 of the acts of 1975, is hereby amended
3 by inserting after the word "sections," in line 1, the words: — ten
4 A.

1 SECTION 18. Section 20 of said chapter 166A is hereby
2 amended by striking out, in line 1, the word "CATV" and inserting
3 in place thereof the words: — cable television.

1 SECTION 19. Section 21 of said chapter 166A is hereby
2 amended by striking out, in line 3, the words "community
3 antenna" and inserting in place thereof the word: — cable.

1 SECTION 20. The first, second, third and fifth paragraphs of
2 section 22 of chapter 166A, as amended by chapter 225 of the acts
3 of 1977, are hereby amended by striking out the word "CATV"
4 in each said paragraph and inserting in each place thereof the
5 words: — cable television.



The first part of the report deals with the general situation in the country at the beginning of the year. It mentions the economic difficulties and the political situation. The second part describes the work of the organization during the year, including the activities of the various departments. The third part contains the financial statement for the year, showing the income and expenses. The fourth part is a summary of the work done during the year and the plans for the future.

The work of the organization during the year has been very successful. We have managed to carry out all our plans and to achieve our objectives. The financial statement shows that we have a surplus for the year, which is a very good result.

In the future, we plan to continue our work and to expand our activities. We will try to reach more people and to do more good. We will also try to improve our financial situation and to become more self-sufficient.

We are very grateful to all our friends and supporters who have helped us during the year. Without their help, we could not have done what we have done. We hope that you will continue to support us in the future.

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