

By Mr. Nagle of Northampton, petition of William P. Nagle, Jr., relative to the licensing of cable television systems. Government Regulations.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEMS.

1 *Whereas*, Cable television systems are an unique asset to the
2 cities and towns of the Commonwealth; and

3 *Whereas*, Cable television systems can provide excellent educa-
4 tional and entertainment opportunity to the citizens of the Com-
5 monwealth; and

6 *Whereas*, It is in the public interest to direct the cable television
7 industry towards providing the greatest possible benefit to the
8 citizens of the Commonwealth; and

9 *Whereas*, It is in the public interest to direct the cable television
10 industry towards providing the greatest possible benefit to the
11 citizens of the Commonwealth; therefore

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 adding the following new section:—

3 *Section 8A.* Each licensee shall establish an escrow account for
4 security deposits paid by subscribers to the licensee for cable
5 television (CATV) signal reception equipment, in a banking insti-
6 tution located in the town or city where the licensing authority is
7 located. The licensee must inform all subscribers, at the time of
8 subscription, with the name of the banking institution and the
9 number of the escrow account. The licensee shall annually invest
10 one-quarter of the interest accrued on this escrow account in local

11 television programming that deals directly with issues and prob-
12 lems concerning the town or city where the licensing authority is
13 located. The remainder of the interest accrued on the escrow
14 account shall be used at the discretion of the licensee.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.