

By Mr. Ruane of Salem, petition of J. Michael Ruane relative to regulating cable television system fees. Government Regulations.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REGULATING CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM FEES.

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 9 of Chapter 166A of the General Laws, as most recently
2 amended by Chapter 552 of the Acts of 1977, is hereby amended
3 by striking the section in its entirety and inserting in place thereof
4 the following: —

5 No application for a license to operate a cable system or for
6 renewal, transfer or assignment of such a license shall be
7 considered by an issuing authority unless it is accompanied by an
8 application fee payable to the city or town based on population
9 as follows: for cities and towns up to fifty thousand population,
10 the fee shall be one thousand dollars; for cities and towns from
11 fifty thousand to ninety thousand population, the fee shall be two
12 thousand five hundred dollars; for cities and towns above ninety
13 thousand population, the fee shall be five thousand dollars.

14 An additional fee may be charged to the license at the initial
15 licensing or in renewal, transfer, assignment or amendment of a
16 license to defray the actual costs which the city or town incurs
17 in such a licensing, renewal, transfer, assignment or amendment
18 process in addition to the application fee described above. Such
19 costs shall include but not be limited to financial, legal and
20 engineering consultant fees.

21 A licensee, serving more than two hundred and fifty subscribers,
22 shall on or before March fifteenth of each year pay to the issuing
23 authority a license fee of five percent, as allowed under federal
24 law, of said licensee's gross annual revenues derived from the
25 operation of the cable system, less one-half of one percent of

26 licensee's gross annual revenues; said one-half of one percent shall
27 be payable to the Commonwealth as a license fee. In determining
28 a license fee, the number of subscribers served shall be measured
29 as of June thirtieth of the preceding calendar year.

30 Consortiums of municipalities which join together to oversee
31 regional cable operations shall be governed by the same licensing,
32 renewal, transfer, assignment and amendment charges allowed in
33 this section.