
SENATE BILL 5241

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senators Oemig, Pridemore, Kline, Kohl-Welles, and Shin

Read first time 01/19/09. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to public, education, and government access
2 channels; and adding a new chapter to Title 19 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that public,
5 education, and government access channels are a vital public resource
6 that should be easily accessible. The collection of aggregate
7 viewership data promotes good management of this resource while still
8 protecting personal privacy.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A city, county, or other local
10 governmental entity that grants a franchise for cable television
11 service must include the following requirements in its franchise
12 agreement: (a) Public, education, and government access channels shall
13 be carried on the lowest cost tier of service; (b) public, education,
14 and government access channels shall not be separated numerically; (c)
15 after the initial designation of public, education, and government
16 access channel numbers, the numbers shall not be changed without the
17 agreement of the franchising authority; and (d) weekly aggregate

1 viewership data for each public, education, and government access
2 program shall be provided to the franchising authority.

3 (2) Each franchising authority shall post the aggregate viewership
4 data to a web site for public inspection. The web site shall be
5 updated at least weekly.

6 (3) The following definitions apply to this chapter:

7 (a) "Cable television service" has the same meaning as "cable
8 service" in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 522; and

9 (b) "Franchise" and "franchising authority" are defined in 47
10 U.S.C. Sec. 522. "Franchising authority" means a city, county, or
11 other local governmental entity that grants a franchise for cable
12 television service.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act constitute a
14 new chapter in Title 19 RCW.

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