

SENATE No. 2577

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)

SENATE, Monday, June 25, 2018

The committee on Ways and Means to whom was referred the Senate Bill supporting community access television (Senate, No. 1857),-- reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2577).

For the committee,
Karen E. Spilka

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(2017-2018)**

An Act supporting community access 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 amended by adding following
2 section:-

3 Section 23. (a) A cable television operator shall provide a public, educational or
4 governmental access channel and connection so that the channel is delivered, and subscribers
5 receive, the public, educational or governmental access channel with a good quality signal and
6 in the same format as the primary local broadcast signals, including a high definition format and
7 a standard digital format if such formats are so delivered and received by subscribers for the
8 primary local broadcast signals; provided, however, a cable television operator shall not be
9 required to provide the signal of a public, educational or governmental access channel to a
10 subscriber on any particular channel number or to provide such signals in any particular order.

11 (b) A cable television operator shall provide a public, educational or governmental access
12 channel in a nondiscriminatory manner on any navigational device, on-screen program guide or
13 menu such that a subscriber may access the public, educational or governmental access channel
14 in the same manner as local broadcast channels.

15 (c) For the purpose of this section, a cable television operator shall include a cable
16 operator and a multichannel video programming distributor as defined in 47 U.S.C. 522.

17 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, condition or restrict a cable television operator's
18 use of any type of subscriber equipment or any transmission technology.