
By: Delegates Kach, Pendergrass, and Cummings

Introduced and read first time: February 19, 1996

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Multichannel Video Programming Subscribers - Continued Access to Services**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain subscribers to continue to receive certain
4 multichannel video programming services notwithstanding any agreements to the
5 contrary between certain persons and different multichannel video programming
6 distributors; defining certain terms; and generally relating to multichannel video
7 programming services.

8 BY adding to

9 Article - Commercial Law
10 Section 14-1315
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Commercial Law**

16 14-1315.

17 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
18 INDICATED.

19 (2) (I) "MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING DISTRIBUTOR"
20 MEANS ANY PERSON THAT MAKES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE BY SUBSCRIBERS OR
21 CUSTOMERS MULTIPLE CHANNELS OF VIDEO PROGRAMMING.

22 (II) "MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING DISTRIBUTOR"
23 INCLUDES:

- 24 1. A CABLE OPERATOR;
- 25 2. A TELEPHONE COMPANY;
- 26 3. A MULTICHANNEL OR MULTIPOINT DISTRIBUTION
27 SERVICE;
- 28 4. A DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE SERVICE; OR

2

1 5. A TELEVISION RECEIVE-ONLY SATELLITE PROGRAM
2 DISTRIBUTOR.

3 (3) "SUBSCRIBER" MEANS A PERSON THAT RECEIVES SERVICES FROM:

4 (I) A MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING DISTRIBUTOR; OR

5 (II) A PERSON THAT DELIVERS SERVICES OVER A NETWORK
6 OWNED, OPERATED, OR CONTROLLED BY A MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING
7 DISTRIBUTOR.

8 (B) A SUBSCRIBER THAT RESIDES IN A MULTIPLE DWELLING UNIT OF FIVE
9 OR MORE UNITS THAT IS SITUATED ON ONE PARCEL OF PROPERTY FOR WHICH
10 MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING SERVICE HAS BEEN PROVIDED MAY
11 CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THAT MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING SERVICE
12 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY AGREEMENT TO THE CONTRARY BETWEEN A DIFFERENT
13 MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING DISTRIBUTOR AND THE OWNER OF THE
14 PROPERTY.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the provisions of this Act
16 may not be construed to apply to any contracts or agreements entered into between a
17 multichannel video programming distributor and a property owner on or before
18 September 30, 1996.

19 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 1996.