Unofficial Copy 1996 Regular Session 6lr2809 C5 CF 6lr2799 **By: Senator Hafer** Introduced and read first time: February 15, 1996 Assigned to: Rules 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 programming services. 7 8 BY adding to 9 Article - Commercial Law Section 14-1315 10 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: **Article - Commercial Law** 15 16 14-1315. (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS 17 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.

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;

4. A DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE SERVICE; OR

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1 2	5. A TELEVISION RECEIVE-ONLY SATELLITE PROGRAM DISTRIBUTOR.
3	(3) "SUBSCRIBER" MEANS A PERSON THAT RECEIVES SERVICES FROM:
4	(I) A MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING DISTRIBUTOR; OR
	(II) A PERSON THAT DELIVERS SERVICES OVER A NETWORK OWNED, OPERATED, OR CONTROLLED BY A MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING DISTRIBUTOR.
10 11 12 13	(B) A SUBSCRIBER THAT RESIDES IN A MULTIPLE DWELLING UNIT OF FIVE OR MORE UNITS THAT IS SITUATED ON ONE PARCEL OF PROPERTY FOR WHICH MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING SERVICE HAS BEEN PROVIDED MAY CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THAT MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING SERVICE NOTWITHSTANDING ANY AGREEMENT TO THE CONTRARY BETWEEN A DIFFERENT MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING DISTRIBUTOR AND THE OWNER OF THE 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.