

# HOUSE BILL 939

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9lr1287

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By: **Delegates Smigiel, Frank, and McConkey**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2009

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Broadcasting – Maryland Public Television Freedom in Broadcasting**  
3 **Act**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission or a  
5 division of the Commission, when entering into a contractual relationship with  
6 the State or an entity of the State for television broadcasting services, to include  
7 a provision in the contract to allow the Commission or a division of the  
8 Commission to select the events it will film and broadcast; and generally  
9 relating to the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Education  
12 Section 24–201  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2008 Replacement Volume)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Education  
17 Section 24–205  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2008 Replacement Volume)

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

22 **Article – Education**

23 24–201.

24 There is a Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 24-205.

2 (a) The Commission shall operate a system of State, regional, and local  
3 facilities to provide educational and cultural radio and television programs in this  
4 State.

5 (b) The Commission, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is  
6 responsible for and shall control the preparation, content, scheduling, and  
7 programming of all educational television and radio programs used in the public  
8 schools and adult education programs of this State.

9 (c) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the Commission  
10 is responsible for and shall control the preparation, content, programming, and  
11 scheduling of all its programs for the general public.

12 **(D) WHEN ENTERING INTO A CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE**  
13 **STATE OR AN ENTITY OF THE STATE FOR TELEVISION BROADCASTING**  
14 **SERVICES, THE COMMISSION OR A DIVISION OF THE COMMISSION SHALL**  
15 **INCLUDE A PROVISION IN THE CONTRACT TO ALLOW THE COMMISSION OR**  
16 **DIVISION OF THE COMMISSION TO SELECT THE EVENTS IT WILL FILM AND**  
17 **BROADCAST.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 2009.