

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Joint Resolution 2 (Delegate Beitzel)
Rules and Executive Nominations

**Inclusion of Garrett County in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Television
Broadcast Market Areas**

This joint resolution affirms that it is in the best interest of the residents of Garrett County to be able to view broadcasts from stations located in the Baltimore and Washington, DC television market areas so that they may know what is happening in their own State. The resolution further urges the Maryland Delegation to Congress to (1) encourage the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to amend its television market determination regulations and (2) sponsor and support any necessary legislation in the U.S. Congress to allow Garrett County residents to receive broadcasts from stations located in the Baltimore and Washington, DC television market areas.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Compliance with this joint resolution will not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The FCC, which has regulatory authority over cable and satellite television service, has designated Garrett County to be in the Pittsburgh television broadcast market area. Garrett County is the only county in the State not to be included in either the Baltimore or Washington, DC television broadcast market areas. Consequently, Garrett County residents are unable to view news coverage and sporting events broadcast on Baltimore and Washington, DC television stations.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SJ 2 (Senator Edwards) - Finance.

Information Source(s): *The Cumberland Times-News*, Garrett County, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/hlb

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