

A bill for an act
relating to telecommunications; requiring a study of the impact of state video
franchising in states that have enacted such legislation; appropriating money.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **STATE VIDEO FRANCHISING STUDY.**

Subdivision 1. Study contents. The Department of Commerce shall issue a request
for proposals for a study of the impact of legislation enacted in at least three states that
requires franchises for video service to be issued by a state agency. The contractor
conducting the study shall, prior to its initiation, consult with associations representing
municipalities and communities of color. The study shall contain, at a minimum, the
following information:

(1) the number of new video service providers that have applied for a state video
franchise;

(2) the number of incumbent video service providers that have elected to terminate
an existing franchise agreement and apply for a state video franchise;

(3) the amount of capital invested by new video service providers to furnish video
service;

(4) the number of communities in which new video service providers intend to offer
video services, as reflected in their application;

(5) the number of communities with an incumbent video provider in which new
providers intend to offer video services;

(6) the number of communities with no incumbent video service provider in which
new video service providers intend to offer video services;

(7) the effect on video service prices in communities with an incumbent video provider in which new video service providers offer video services;

(8) the effect on franchise fee revenues received by municipalities from video service providers;

(9) the effect on the number of PEG channels available to communities;

(10) the effect on the amount of revenues received by municipalities to support the provision of PEG programming in communities;

(11) the effect on the amount of PEG programming available in communities;

(12) the progress of new video providers in meeting any build-out requirements in the law; and

(13) the effect on municipal services provided to communities by video service providers.

Subd. 2. **Report.** The department shall submit the report described in subdivision 1 to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house committees with primary jurisdiction over telecommunications policy by February 1, 2009.

Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 237.52, subdivision 5, \$85,000 is appropriated from the telecommunications access Minnesota fund to the commissioner of commerce for the purposes of section 1.

Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.