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## ASSEMBLY, No. 2716

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 18, 1984

By Assemblymen PANKOK, FOY, SCHWARTZ, BRYANT, ZANGARI, HERMAN, LONG, MARSELLA and RILEY

AN ACT concerning cable television rates for senior citizens and supplementing P. L. 1972, c. 186 (C. 48:5A-1 et seq.).

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. It is declared that many elderly persons reside in the State  
2 whose annual net income from all sources is less than the amount  
3 necessary to enable them to maintain decent living conditions and  
4 whose income is fixed in whole or in part so as to be not adjusted  
5 to increases in the cost of living; that the provision of the service  
6 of public utilities, and cable television, at rates reduced or dis-  
7 counted from inflationary levels is a necessity of life for these  
8 persons because cable television is a principal source of recreation  
9 and entertainment for the elderly and infirm; that a public exigency  
10 exists which makes the provision of reduced or discounted rate  
11 services to **[the]** *\*qualified\** elderly *\*persons\** by cable televi-  
12 sion companies a public necessity; and that the provision of re-  
13 duced rates will promote their health and welfare, thereby pro-  
14 longing their productivity in the interest of the State and nation,  
15 and therefore constitutes and is declared to be a public purpose  
16 necessary for the preservation of the public convenience.

1 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of P. L. 1972, c. 186 (C. 48:5A-1  
2 et seq.) or of any other State law to the contrary, any CATV  
3 company providing service may establish rates or schedules which  
4 provide for a reduction or discount in rates *\*for cable television*  
4A *reception service\** for senior citizens *\*who meet the income and*  
4B *residency requirements of the "Pharmaceutical Assistance to the*

**EXPLANATION**—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter printed in italics thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

\*—Assembly committee amendments adopted April 15, 1985.

4c *Aged and Disabled*'' program pursuant to P. L. 1975, c. 194 (C.  
4d 30:4D-20 et seq.)\*.

5 The Board of Public Utilities through the Office of Cable Tele-  
6 vision shall adopt regulations for the prompt, fair and efficient  
7 establishment and maintenance of these reduced or discounted  
8 rates and schedules \*~~and determination of eligibility by CATV~~  
9 companies]\*.

10 "Senior citizen" means any person 62 years of age or older who  
11 subscribes for CATV service and who does not share the sub-  
12 scription with more than one other person in the same dwelling  
13 unit who is less than 62 years of age.

1 \*3. *A municipality shall not require, as part of any franchising*  
2 *agreement, or renewal thereof, or as part of any negotiations lead-*  
3 *ing up to a franchising agreement, or renewal thereof, that a CATV*  
4 *company provide the reduction or discount in rates which is per-*  
5 *mitted under section 2 of this act.\**

1 \*~~3.~~\* \*4.\* This act shall take effect on the 60th day following  
2 enactment.

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2 whose annual net income from all sources is less than the amount  
3 necessary to enable them to maintain decent living conditions and  
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6 of public utilities, and cable television, at rates reduced or dis-  
7 counted from inflationary levels is a necessity of life for these  
8 persons because cable television is a principal source of recreation  
9 and entertainment for the elderly and infirm; that a public exigency  
10 exists which makes the provision of reduced or discounted rate  
11 services to the elderly by cable television companies a public neces-  
12 sity; and that the provision of reduced rates will promote their  
13 health and welfare, thereby prolonging their productivity in the  
14 interest of the State and nation, and therefore constitutes and is  
15 declared to be a public purpose necessary for the preservation of  
16 the public convenience.

1 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of P. L. 1972, c. 186 (C. 48:5A-1  
2 et seq.) or of any other State law to the contrary, any CATV  
3 company providing service may establish rates or schedules which  
4 provide for a reduction or discount in rates for senior citizens.

5 The Board of Public Utilities through the Office of Cable Tele-

6 vision shall adopt regulations for the prompt, fair and efficient  
7 establishment and maintenance of these reduced or discounted  
8 rates and schedules and determination of eligibility by CATV  
9 companies.

10 "Senior citizen" means any person 62 years of age or older who  
11 subscribes for CATV service and who does not share the sub-  
12 scription with more than one other person in the same dwelling  
13 unit who is less than 62 years of age.

1 3. This act shall take effect on the 60th day following enactment.

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STATEMENT

The purpose of the bill is to permit cable television companies to grant reduced or discounted rates to senior citizens 62 years of age or older who subscribe for cable television service and who do not share the subscription with more than one other person in the same dwelling unit who is less than 62 years of age.

A2776 (1985)

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2716**

with Assembly committee amendments

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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DATED: MARCH 25, 1985

This bill, as amended, provides that any cable television company may grant reduced or discounted rates to senior citizens who meet the income and residency requirements of the "Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled Program." As defined in this bill, "senior citizen" means any person 62 years of age or older who subscribes for cable television service and who does not share the subscription with more than one other person in the same dwelling unit who is less than 62 years of age.

The committee amended the bill to establish the aforementioned income and residency requirements. In addition, the committee amended the bill to state that a municipality shall not require, as part of any franchising agreement, or renewal thereof, or as part of any negotiations leading up to a franchise agreement, or renewal thereof, that a cable television company provide any reduction or discount in rates for senior citizens. Another amendment clarifies the point that any reduction or discount in rates is to only apply for basic cable service.

The committee reported the bill, as amended, favorably.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGING

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2716**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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DATED: JUNE 13, 1985

This bill provides that any cable television company may grant reduced or discounted rates for basic cable service to senior citizens who meet the income and residency requirements of the "Pharmaceutical Assistance of the Aged and Disabled Program." As defined in this bill "senior citizen" means any person 62 years of age or older who subscribes for cable television service and who does not share the subscription with more than one person in the same dwelling unit who is less than 62 years of age.

In addition, the bill provides that a municipality shall not require, as part of any franchising agreement, or renewal thereof, or as part of any negotiations leading up to a franchise agreement, or renewal thereof, that a cable television company provide any reduction or discount in rates for senior citizens.

Bill Signings - S-2531, S-2871, A-2117, A-2748, S-2697, S-2716 A-3463,  
A-3488 S-2164 and A-3316  
Page 3  
November 13, 1985

The Governor also signed the following bills:

A-2748, sponsored by Assemblyman Paul Cuprowski, D-Hudson, which permits a redevelopment agency to sell bonds at a public or private sale to any buyer at par value or less, provided the agency receives prior approval from the Local Finance Board.

S-2697, sponsored by State Senator Garrett W. Hagedorn, R-Bergen, which exempts from coverage under the Rooming and Boarding House Act of 1976, single family residences which are made available for occupancy by not more than six guests where the primary purpose is to provide charitable assistance and where the owner derives no income from the guests.

Despite exemption from the provisions of the Rooming and Boarding House Act, the bill still requires the installation of fire detectors as that need is determined by the Department of Community Affairs.

A-2117, sponsored by Assemblyman John Paul Doyle, D-Ocean, which prohibits an automobile manufacturer, distributor or importer from engaging in the business of new car retail sales.

S-2531, sponsored by State Senator Daniel J. Dalton, D-Camden, which exempts from the gross receipts and franchise taxes natural gas which is sold to an electrical co-generation facility.

A-2716, sponsored by Assemblyman Thomas A. Pankok, D-Salem, which permits a cable television company to voluntarily offer discounts on their rates to persons 62 years or older who meet the income and residency requirements of the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled program.

The bill specifies that the discount is voluntary on the part of the company, and expressly prohibits a municipality from requiring such a discount as part of any franchising agreement.