48:45A-11 LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

- LAWS OF: 2013 CHAPTER: 232
- **NJSA:** 48:45A-11 (Modifies certain CATV company filing requirements with BPU and CATV company subscriber notice requirements concerning rates, charges, or services)
- BILL NO: A753 (Substituted for S2145)
- **SPONSOR(S)** Barnes and others
- DATE INTRODUCED: January 10, 2012
- **COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY:** Regulatory Oversight and Gaming

SENATE: Economic Growth

- AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes
- DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: January 6, 2014
 - SENATE: December 19, 2013
- DATE OF APPROVAL: January 17, 2014

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Second reprint enacted)

A753	SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 3	of introduced bill)	Yes
	COMMITTEE STATEMENT:	ASSEMBLY:	Yes
		SENATE:	Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

	FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:		No
	LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:		No
S2145			
	SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 4 of introduced bill)		Yes
	COMMITTEE STATEMENT:	ASSEMBLY:	No
		SENATE:	Yes
	FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:		No
	LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	(continued)	No

VETO MESSAGE:	No		
GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	No		
DLLOWING WERE PRINTED: To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org			
REPORTS:	No		
HEARINGS:	No		
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	No		

LAW/RWH

P.L.2013, CHAPTER 232, approved January 17, 2014 Assembly, No. 753 (Second Reprint)]

 AN ACT concerning notice of cable television rates and services and amending P.L.1972, c.186.

3 4

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

5 6

7 1. Section 11 of P.L.1972, c.186 (C.48:5A-11) is amended to8 read as follows:

11. a. ${}^{2}(1)^{2}$ The board ${}^{2}_{,2}$ through the office ${}^{2}_{,2}$ shall, consistent 9 with federal law, prescribe just and reasonable rates, charges $\frac{2}{2}$ and 10 classifications for the services rendered by a CATV company ¹[, 11 and the tariffs therefor shall be filed and published in such manner 12 13 and on such notice as the director with the approval of the board 14 may prescribe, and shall be subject to change on such notice and in 15 such manner as the director with the approval of the board may prescribe]. ²[A CATV company shall make available for public 16 inspection on its Internet website a schedule of the CATV 17 company's rates, terms, and conditions.¹] 18

(2) On an annual basis, a CATV company shall electronically
 file, using any reasonable means and format, a schedule of the
 CATV company's rates, terms, and conditions with the board and,
 as applicable, electronically file with the board any specific changes
 to the schedule of the CATV company's rates, terms, and conditions
 to the extent required by State or federal law.²

b. The board shall $\frac{2}{2}$ from time to time $\frac{2}{2}$ cause the 25 established rates and rate schedules of each CATV company for 26 cable 1 [TV] <u>television</u>¹ reception service to be reviewed, and ${}^{2,2}_{,}$ if 27 upon 2 [such] 2 review 2 it shall appear to the board that, under 28 federal law, ²[such rates, or any of them,] the rates and rate 29 <u>schedules</u>² are or may be excessive, unreasonable, unjustly 30 discriminatory 2,2 or unduly preferential, the board shall require the 31 CATV company to establish to ²[its] the board's² satisfaction that 32 ²[such] <u>the CATV company's</u>² rates are just, reasonable $\frac{2}{3}$ and not 33 excessive or unjustly preferential or discriminatory, and for ²[such] 34 <u>that</u>² purpose $\frac{2}{3}$ shall order the director to hold a hearing thereon. 35 After a hearing upon notice and full opportunity to be heard 36 37 afforded to the CATV company, the director may recommend amendment of the schedule of cable television ²[subscription] 38 reception service² rates charged by ²[such] that CATV² company, 39

Matter underlined <u>thus</u> is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows: ¹Assembly ARG committee amendments adopted June 18, 2012. ²Senate SEG committee amendments adopted December 12, 2013.

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

and ²[such] <u>the</u>² amended schedule ²,² if approved by the board ²,²
 shall supersede and replace the schedule so amended.

c. Any hearing held pursuant to this section shall be open to 3 4 the public, and notice thereof shall be published by the ¹[cable television] CATV¹ company at least 10 days prior thereto in a 5 newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in the certificated 6 7 area wherein the rate schedule which is the subject of the hearing 8 applies. Every municipality may intervene in any hearing held by 9 the director pursuant to this section affecting the municipality or the 10 public within the municipality.

11 d. ²[No] \underline{A}^2 CATV company shall ²<u>not</u>² derive from the 12 operations of cable television reception service or cable 13 communications systems any revenues other than the fees, charges, 14 ²<u>and</u>² rates ²[and tariffs]² provided for in subsection a. of this 15 section and in subsection g. of section 28 of ²[this act] <u>P.L.1972</u>, 16 <u>c.186 (C.48:5A-28)</u>².

e. Whenever ²,² pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1972, c.186 17 (C.48:5A-1 et seq.)²² the board or the director is required to 18 determine whether any of the rates, charges, fees, ²[tariffs]² and 19 classifications of a CATV company are unjust, unreasonable, 20 21 discriminatory $\frac{2}{2}$ or unduly preferential, there shall be taken into consideration any fees which are charged for the use of a CATV 22 23 system, or part thereof, as an advertising medium, or for services ancillary to ²[such] that² use, and from which the CATV system 24 25 derives revenue, directly or indirectly, and the effect thereof upon, the ${}^{2}CATV{}^{2}$ company's requirements for revenue from ${}^{2}[such] the^{2}$ 26 fees, rates, charges, ²[tariffs]² and classifications subject to the 27 provisions of this section. 28

f. The provisions of this section shall not apply in any area
where there is effective competition as that term is used in 47
U.S.C. s.543.

g. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of ²[subsection a. of]² 32 this section, or any other law, rule, regulation, or order to the 33 contrary, and consistent with federal law, the director shall not 34 <u>require</u> 2 [any] \underline{a}^{2}_{1} [cable television] 1 <u>CATV company to</u> 2 : (a) 2 35 provide ²[, upon request,] subscribers with ² a copy of the $^{2}CATV^{2}$ 36 company's schedule of prices, rates, charges, and services ¹[,];¹ 37 ²[to] (b)² post a copy of the ${}^{2}CATV^{2}$ company's schedule of prices. 38 rates, charges, and services in its local business office ¹[,];¹ or 39 ²[to] (c)² provide ²[customers] subscribers² or applicants for cable 40 ¹[<u>TV]</u> <u>television</u>¹ <u>reception service with an explanation</u> 2,2 <u>in non-</u> 41 <u>technical terms</u> 2 , 2 of the $^{2}CATV^{2}$ company's products and services 42 offered, ¹or the¹ prices ², rates, charges,² and provisions applicable 43 to the services furnished or available to ²[such customers] those 44 subscribers² or applicants, if the ²CATV² company provides ²[such 45

3

information] currently available prices, rates, charges, and services² 1 in an electronic format on the ²CATV² company's Internet website 2 in a ²clear, concise, and readily accessible² manner ², using any 3 reasonable means and format,² that ²[reasonably] accurately² 4 conveys the content of ²[such] the CATV company's² notices, and 5 that allows its ²[its customers] subscribers² and applicants to 6 thereafter make informed decisions based on the information 7 8 contained in ²[such notices] the postings on the CATV company's 9 Internet website². (2) ²[Any] \underline{A}^2 ¹[cable television] <u>CATV</u>¹ company that 10 ¹[determines] <u>elects</u>¹ to provide notices on ²[its] the CATV 11 company's² Internet website pursuant to paragraph (1) of this 12 13 subsection, in lieu of providing notices or explanations to ²[its 14 customers subscribers² or applicants, or posting notices in its local <u>business office, shall</u> 2 : (a) 2 [offer the option] provide an 15 explanation² to each of ²[its customers] the CATV company's 16 17 subscribers on their bill periodically, though not less than quarterly, of how subscribers are² to ²[receive such notices or explanations] 18 obtain² in written ²and electronic² form ²[on at least an annual 19 basis,] the CATV company's currently available prices, rates, 20 charges, and services;² and (b) provide ²[such notices or 21 explanations] the CATV company's currently available prices, 22 rates, charges, and services², upon request, to ²each of the CATV 23 company's subscribers and² applicants who are unable to access the 24 Internet or are otherwise unable to obtain information from the 25 26 ²CATV² company's website via the Internet. ²Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify or expand a CATV company's 27 28 existing obligations to provide information to the board under any 29 other section of Title 48 of the Revised Statutes, to the extent that those obligations do not conflict with this section.² 30 31 (cf: P.L.2006, c.83, s.8) 32 2. This act shall take effect immediately. 33 34 35 36 37 38 Modifies certain CATV company filing requirements with BPU 39 and CATV company subscriber notice requirements concerning 40 rates, charges, or services.

ASSEMBLY, No. 753 **STATE OF NEW JERSEY** 215th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2012 SESSION

Sponsored by: Assemblyman PETER J. BARNES, III District 18 (Middlesex) Assemblywoman CELESTE M. RILEY District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem) Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO District 20 (Union) Assemblyman JOHN J. BURZICHELLI District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Co-Sponsored by: Assemblyman DeAngelo

SYNOPSIS

Modifies certain notice requirements concerning rates, prices, or service packages of CATV companies.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



2

AN ACT concerning notice of cable television rates and services and
 amending P.L.1972, c.186.

3

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

5 6

7 1. Section 11 of P.L.1972, c.186 (C.48:5A-11) is amended to8 read as follows:

9 11. a. The board through the office shall, consistent with federal 10 law, prescribe just and reasonable rates, charges and classifications 11 for the services rendered by a CATV company, and the tariffs 12 therefor shall be filed and published in such manner and on such 13 notice as the director with the approval of the board may prescribe, 14 and shall be subject to change on such notice and in such manner as 15 the director with the approval of the board may prescribe.

The board shall from time to time cause the established rates 16 b. 17 and rate schedules of each CATV company for cable TV reception 18 service to be reviewed, and if upon such review it shall appear to 19 the board that, under federal law, such rates, or any of them, are or 20 may be excessive, unreasonable, unjustly discriminatory or unduly 21 preferential, the board shall require the CATV company to establish 22 to its satisfaction that such rates are just, reasonable and not 23 excessive or unjustly preferential or discriminatory, and for such 24 purpose shall order the director to hold a hearing thereon. After a 25 hearing upon notice and full opportunity to be heard afforded to the 26 CATV company, the director may recommend amendment of the 27 schedule of cable television subscription rates charged by such 28 company, and such amended schedule if approved by the board 29 shall supersede and replace the schedule so amended.

30 c. Any hearing held pursuant to this section shall be open to 31 the public, and notice thereof shall be published by the cable 32 television company at least 10 days prior thereto in a newspaper or 33 newspapers of general circulation in the certificated area wherein the rate schedule which is the subject of the hearing applies. Every 34 35 municipality may intervene in any hearing held by the director 36 pursuant to this section affecting the municipality or the public 37 within the municipality.

d. No CATV company shall derive from the operations of cable
television reception service or cable communications systems any
revenues other than the fees, charges, rates and tariffs provided for
in subsection a. of this section and in subsection g. of section 28 of
this act.

e. Whenever pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1972, c.186
(C.48:5A-1 et seq.) the board or the director is required to
determine whether any of the rates, charges, fees, tariffs and

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 underlined <u>thus</u> is new matter.

3

classifications of a CATV company are unjust, unreasonable, 1 2 discriminatory or unduly preferential, there shall be taken into 3 consideration any fees which are charged for the use of a CATV 4 system, or part thereof, as an advertising medium, or for services 5 ancillary to such use, and from which the CATV system derives revenue, directly or indirectly, and the effect thereof upon, the 6 7 company's requirements for revenue from such fees, rates, charges, 8 tariffs and classifications subject to the provisions of this section. 9 f. The provisions of this section shall not apply in any area where there is effective competition as that term is used in 47 10 11 U.S.C. s.543.

12 g. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a. of this 13 section, or any other law, rule, regulation, or order to the contrary, 14 and consistent with federal law, the director shall not require any cable television company to provide, upon request, a copy of the 15 16 company's schedule of prices, rates, charges, and services, to post a 17 copy of the company's schedule of prices, rates, charges, and 18 services in its local business office, or to provide customers or 19 applicants for cable TV reception service with an explanation in 20 non-technical terms of the company's products and services offered, 21 prices and provisions applicable to the services furnished or 22 available to such customers or applicants, if the company provides 23 such information in an electronic format on the company's Internet 24 website in a manner that reasonably conveys the content of such 25 notices, and that allows its customers and applicants to thereafter 26 make informed decisions based on the information contained in 27 such notices. 28 (2) Any cable television company that determines to provide 29 notices on its Internet website pursuant to paragraph (1) of this 30 subsection, in lieu of providing notices or explanations to its 31 customers or applicants, or posting notices in its local business 32 office, shall (a) offer the option to each of its customers to receive 33 such notices or explanations in written form on at least an annual 34 basis, and (b) provide such notices or explanations, upon request, to 35 applicants who are unable to access the Internet or are otherwise 36 unable to obtain information from the company's website via the 37 Internet. 38 (cf: P.L.2006, c.83, s.8) 39 40 2. This act shall take effect immediately. 41 42 43 **STATEMENT** 44 45 This bill amends section 11 of P.L.1972, c.186 (C.48:5A-11) to 46 provide, consistent with federal law, that the Director of the Office

47 of Cable Television shall not require any cable television ("CATV")

A753 P.BARNES, III, RILEY

4

company to provide copies of its schedule of prices, rates, charges, 1 2 and services, to post copies of such schedules in its local business 3 office, or to send non-technical explanations of service packages, 4 rates, prices and other relevant service provisions to its customers 5 or applicants, if the company provides such information on its 6 Internet website. 7 The bill requires any CATV company that uses its Internet 8 website to make such notices or explanations available in lieu of

9 sending them to customers in written form, or posting them in its 10 local business office, to (1) offer the option to its customers to 11 receive such notices or explanations in written form on at least an 12 annual basis, and (2) provide such notices or explanations, upon 13 request, to applicants who are unable to access the Internet or are 14 otherwise unable to obtain information from the company's website

15 via the Internet.

ASSEMBLY REGULATORY OVERSIGHT AND GAMING COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 753

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 18, 2012

The Assembly Regulatory Oversight and Gaming Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 753.

This bill, as amended by the committee, would require a cable television ("CATV") company to make available for public inspection on its Internet website a schedule of the companies rates, terms, and conditions. The bill would further amend section 11 of P.L.1972, c.186 (C.48:5A-11) to provide, consistent with federal law, that the Director of the Office of Cable Television ("director") shall not require any CATV company to provide copies of its schedule of prices, rates, charges, and services, to post copies of such schedules in its local business office, or to send non-technical explanations of service packages, rates, prices, and other relevant service provisions to its customers or applicants, if the company provides such information on its Internet website.

The bill would require any CATV company that uses its Internet website to make such notices or explanations available in lieu of sending them to customers in written form, or posting them in its local business office, to (1) offer the option to its customers to receive such notices or explanations in written form on at least an annual basis, and (2) provide such notices or explanations, upon request, to applicants who are unable to access the Internet or are otherwise unable to obtain information from the company's website via the Internet.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2012-2013 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The proposed amendments insert a provision in subsection a. of section 1 of the bill that would require a CATV company, rather than publishing tariffs as the director may prescribe, to post a schedule of its rates, terms, and conditions on the company's Internet website. The proposed amendments also make technical and clarifying corrections to ensure the proper usage of statutorily-defined terms and phrases.

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint] ASSEMBLY, No. 753

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 9, 2013

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 753 (1R).

As amended and reported, this bill requires a cable television (CATV) company to electronically file with the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) a schedule of the company's rates, terms, and conditions, and any changes to that schedule, on an annual basis. The bill deletes from current law the requirement that has a CATV company publish tariffs with the BPU as the BPU may prescribe.

The bill provides that the Director of the Office of Cable Television (director), as consistent with federal law, shall not require a CATV company to: 1) provide copies of its schedule of prices, rates, charges, and services to subscribers; 2) post copies of its schedule in its local business office; or 3) send non-technical explanations of the company's products and services offered, or the prices, rates, charges, and provisions applicable to the services furnished or available to its subscribers or applicants for service. These conditions would only apply to a CATV company providing its currently available prices, rates, charges, and services on its website in a clear, concise, and readily accessible manner, using any reasonable means and format, accurately conveying the content of the company's notices, and allowing its subscribers and applicants to make informed decisions based on the information contained in the postings on the company's website.

The bill requires a CATV company that uses its website to provide to subscribers and applicants for service any notices or explanations of its prices, rates, charges, and services available, in lieu of sending the information to subscribers and applicants in written form, or posting the information in its local business office, to: 1) provide an explanation in every subscriber bill, at least quarterly, of how the subscriber may receive the company's currently available prices, rates, charges, and services in written and electronic form; and 2) upon request, provide the company's currently available prices, rates, charges, and services, to subscribers and applicants who are unable to access the Internet or are otherwise unable to obtain information from the company's website via the Internet. Nothing in the bill is meant to modify or expand a CATV company's existing obligation to provide the BPU with information under State law, so long as that obligation does not conflict with the provisions of the bill.

The committee amendments: 1) require a CATV company to electronically file its schedule of rates, terms, and conditions with the BPU on an annual basis and file any changes, rather than make that schedule available for public inspection on its website; 2) require a CATV company providing information on its website, in lieu of sending the information to subscribers in written form or posting it in its local business office, to do so in a clear, concise, and readily accessible manner using any reasonable means and format; 3) provide that nothing in the bill is meant to modify or expand a CATV company's existing obligation to provide the BPU with information under State law, so long as that obligation does not conflict with the provisions of the bill; and 4) make clarifying and grammatical corrections.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 753 (1R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 2145 which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

SENATE, No. 2145 **STATE OF NEW JERSEY** 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 26, 2012

Sponsored by: Senator STEVEN V. OROHO District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren) Senator NELLIE POU District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Modifies certain notice requirements concerning rates, prices, or service packages of CATV companies.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning notice of cable television rates and services and 2 amending P.L.1972, c.186. 3 4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 5 of New Jersey: 6 7 1. Section 11 of P.L.1972, c.186 (C.48:5A-11) is amended to 8 read as follows: 9 11. a. The board through the office shall, consistent with federal 10 law, prescribe just and reasonable rates, charges and classifications 11 for the services rendered by a CATV company [, and the tariffs therefor shall be filed and published in such manner and on such 12 13 notice as the director with the approval of the board may prescribe, 14 and shall be subject to change on such notice and in such manner as 15 the director with the approval of the board may prescribe]. A 16 CATV company shall make available for public inspection on its 17 Internet website a schedule of the CATV company's rates, terms, 18 and conditions. 19 b. The board shall from time to time cause the established rates 20 and rate schedules of each CATV company for cable [TV] television reception service to be reviewed, and if upon such review 21 22 it shall appear to the board that, under federal law, such rates, or 23 any of them, are or may be excessive, unreasonable, unjustly 24 discriminatory or unduly preferential, the board shall require the 25 CATV company to establish to its satisfaction that such rates are 26 just, reasonable and not excessive or unjustly preferential or 27 discriminatory, and for such purpose shall order the director to hold 28 a hearing thereon. After a hearing upon notice and full opportunity 29 to be heard afforded to the CATV company, the director may 30 recommend amendment of the schedule of cable television 31 subscription rates charged by such company, and such amended 32 schedule if approved by the board shall supersede and replace the 33 schedule so amended. 34 Any hearing held pursuant to this section shall be open to c. the public, and notice thereof shall be published by the [cable 35 television] CATV company at least 10 days prior thereto in a 36 37 newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in the certificated 38 area wherein the rate schedule which is the subject of the hearing 39 applies. Every municipality may intervene in any hearing held by the director pursuant to this section affecting the municipality or the 40 41 public within the municipality. 42 d. No CATV company shall derive from the operations of cable 43 television reception service or cable communications systems any 44 revenues other than the fees, charges, rates and tariffs provided for

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 underlined thus is new matter.

in subsection a. of this section and in subsection g. of section 28 of
 this act.

3 e. Whenever pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1972, c.186 4 (C.48:5A-1 et seq.) the board or the director is required to 5 determine whether any of the rates, charges, fees, tariffs and 6 classifications of a CATV company are unjust, unreasonable, 7 discriminatory or unduly preferential, there shall be taken into 8 consideration any fees which are charged for the use of a CATV 9 system, or part thereof, as an advertising medium, or for services 10 ancillary to such use, and from which the CATV system derives 11 revenue, directly or indirectly, and the effect thereof upon, the 12 company's requirements for revenue from such fees, rates, charges, 13 tariffs and classifications subject to the provisions of this section.

f. The provisions of this section shall not apply in any area
where there is effective competition as that term is used in 47
U.S.C. s.543.

17 g. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a. of this 18 section, or any other law, rule, regulation, or order to the contrary, 19 and consistent with federal law, the director shall not require any 20 CATV company to provide, upon request, a copy of the company's 21 schedule of prices, rates, charges, and services; to post a copy of the 22 company's schedule of prices, rates, charges, and services in its 23 local business office; or to provide customers or applicants for cable 24 television reception service with an explanation in non-technical 25 terms of the company's products and services offered, or the prices 26 and provisions applicable to the services furnished or available to 27 such customers or applicants, if the company provides such information in an electronic format on the company's Internet 28 29 website in a manner that reasonably conveys the content of such 30 notices, and that allows its customers and applicants to thereafter 31 make informed decisions based on the information contained in 32 such notices. 33 (2) Any CATV company that elects to provide notices on its 34 Internet website pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, in lieu

35 of providing notices or explanations to its customers or applicants, 36 or posting notices in its local business office, shall (a) offer the 37 option to each of its customers to receive such notices or 38 explanations in written form on at least an annual basis, and (b) 39 provide such notices or explanations, upon request, to applicants 40 who are unable to access the Internet or are otherwise unable to 41 obtain information from the company's website via the Internet. 42 (cf: P.L.2006, c.83, s.8)

43

44 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

S2145 OROHO, POU

STATEMENT

3 This bill would require a cable television ("CATV") company to make available for public inspection on its Internet website a 4 5 schedule of the companies rates, terms, and conditions rather than publishing tariffs as the Director of the Office of Cable Television 6 7 ("director") may prescribe. The bill would further amend section 8 11 of P.L.1972, c.186 (C.48:5A-11) to provide, consistent with 9 federal law, that the director shall not require any CATV company 10 to provide copies of its schedule of prices, rates, charges, and 11 services, to post copies of such schedules in its local business 12 office, or to send non-technical explanations of service packages, 13 rates, prices, and other relevant service provisions to its customers 14 or applicants, if the company provides such information on its 15 Internet website.

16 The bill would require any CATV company that uses its Internet 17 website to make such notices or explanations available in lieu of 18 sending them to customers in written form, or posting them in its 19 local business office, to (1) offer the option to its customers to 20 receive such notices or explanations in written form on at least an annual basis, and (2) provide such notices or explanations, upon 21 22 request, to applicants who are unable to access the Internet or are 23 otherwise unable to obtain information from the company's website 24 via the Internet.

1 2

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2145

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 9, 2013

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill, No. 2145.

As amended and reported, this bill requires a cable television (CATV) company to electronically file with the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) a schedule of the company's rates, terms, and conditions, and any changes to that schedule, on an annual basis. The bill deletes from current law the requirement that has a CATV company publish tariffs with the BPU as the BPU may prescribe.

The bill provides that the Director of the Office of Cable Television (director), as consistent with federal law, shall not require a CATV company to: 1) provide copies of its schedule of prices, rates, charges, and services to subscribers; 2) post copies of its schedule in its local business office; or 3) send non-technical explanations of the company's products and services offered, or the prices, rates, charges, and provisions applicable to the services furnished or available to its subscribers or applicants for service. These conditions would only apply to a CATV company providing its currently available prices, rates, charges, and services on its website in a clear, concise, and readily accessible manner, using any reasonable means and format, accurately conveying the content of the company's notices, and allowing its subscribers and applicants to make informed decisions based on the information contained in the postings on the company's website.

The bill requires a CATV company that uses its website to provide to subscribers and applicants for service any notices or explanations of its prices, rates, charges, and services available, in lieu of sending the information to subscribers and applicants in written form, or posting the information in its local business office, to: 1) provide an explanation in every subscriber bill, at least quarterly, of how the subscriber may receive the company's currently available prices, rates, charges, and services in written and electronic form; and 2) upon request, provide the company's currently available prices, rates, charges, and services, to subscribers and applicants who are unable to access the Internet or are otherwise unable to obtain information from the company's website via the Internet. Nothing in the bill is meant to modify or expand a CATV company's existing obligation to provide the BPU with information under State law, so long as that obligation does not conflict with the provisions of the bill.

The committee amendments: 1) require a CATV company to electronically file its schedule of rates, terms, and conditions with the BPU on an annual basis and file any changes, rather than make that schedule available for public inspection on its website; 2) require a CATV company providing information on its website, in lieu of sending the information to subscribers in written form or posting it in its local business office, to do so in a clear, concise, and readily accessible manner using any reasonable means and format; 3) provide that nothing in the bill is meant to modify or expand a CATV company's existing obligation to provide the BPU with information under State law, so long as that obligation does not conflict with the provisions of the bill; and 4) make clarifying and grammatical corrections.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 2145 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 753 (1R) which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.