

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 97

Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY BUTERA AND SCIRICA, APRIL 27, 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MAY 2, 1977

In the House of Representatives, April 27, 1977

1 WHEREAS, Inaction by the General Assembly with respect to
2 cable television communications has inhibited the orderly
3 development of potentially beneficial and innovative
4 communication services in the Commonwealth; and

5 WHEREAS, This continued inaction has caused unnecessary
6 expense and uncertainty to be borne by the public; and

7 WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission is presently
8 re-evaluating its franchise provisions and in considering
9 greater local autonomy; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives
11 shall appoint a select committee of seven members, four from the
12 majority and three from the minority, to examine and investigate
13 any and all matters related to the cable television industry as
14 hereinafter set forth; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the select committee shall examine and
16 investigate the following: the effect of Federal regulatory
17 policies on the public, local governments and the communication
18 industry in Pennsylvania; what role, if any, a state agency

1 should play in a regulatory program, and whether deference to a
2 Federal licensing system, absent state involvement, would
3 adequately protect the public interest; whether assertion by the
4 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission of regulatory control
5 over the cable television industry is appropriate, necessary and
6 in the public interest; the public benefits and costs which
7 would result from adoption of the various proposals submitted to
8 previous sessions; the state of the cable industry in the
9 Commonwealth, i.e. location of cable systems, communities
10 served, number of subscribers, those which have received Federal
11 certification, services provided, and ownership of franchised
12 (but unbuilt) systems; standards or criteria for ownership;
13 applicable action taken by other states; whether a measure of
14 statewide planning and coordination would be beneficial; and all
15 other relevant matters involving cable television
16 communications; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the committee may hold hearings, take
18 testimony, and make its investigations at such places as it
19 deems necessary. It may issue subpoenas under the hand and seal
20 of its chairman commanding any person to appear before it and to
21 answer questions touching matters properly being inquired into
22 by the committee and to produce such books, papers, records and
23 documents as the committee deems necessary. Such subpoenas may
24 be served upon any person and shall have the force and effect of
25 subpoenas issued out of the courts of this Commonwealth. Any
26 person who willfully neglects or refuses to testify before the
27 committee or to produce any books, papers, records or documents,
28 shall be subject to the penalties provided by the laws of the
29 Commonwealth in such case. Each member of the committee shall
30 have power to administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses

1 appearing before the committee; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That within 30 calendar days after the committee
3 has made its report, the chairman of the committee shall cause a
4 record of all expenses incurred by the committee, or the members
5 thereof, which are payable at Commonwealth expense, to be filed
6 with the Speaker of the House and the Speaker shall cause the
7 same to be entered in the journal thereof. No expenses incurred
8 by the committee or any member thereof shall be reimbursable by
9 the Chief Clerk unless such expense shall first have been
10 included as an expense item in the record heretofore required;
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the select committee report its findings to
13 the General Assembly by March 1, 1978.