
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 428 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY STACK, SMITH, RAFFERTY, COSTA, FOLMER, FARNESE AND
YUDICHAK, JULY 10, 2014

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
JULY 10, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact S. 912
2 (2013), which would enable cable television customers to
3 subscribe to individual cable television channels.

4 WHEREAS, The Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-
5 104, 110 Stat. 56) was enacted to provide for reduced rates from
6 increased competition in the cable television industry; and

7 WHEREAS, Increased competition has not resulted from these
8 changes and consequently the customers of the cable television
9 industry have not achieved the anticipated lower rates for cable
10 television service; and

11 WHEREAS, A survey conducted by the Federal Communications
12 Commission determined that between 1995 and 2011 cable
13 television rates for basic cable service have increased an
14 average of just over six percent each year, which is nearly two
15 and one half times the average annual rate of inflation; and

16 WHEREAS, The current average monthly price for basic cable
17 television service is \$54.46; and

18 WHEREAS, The Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 (Public

1 Law 98-549, 47 U.S.C. § 521 et seq.) provides only for basic
2 service subscription by multichannel tiers where cable
3 television customers must pay for a subscription to an entire
4 cable channel tier that may include cable television channels
5 that a customer may not desire or utilize; and

6 WHEREAS, An option that enables cable television customers to
7 select only the cable television channels that they wish to
8 subscribe to would reduce the rates paid by the customers by
9 enabling customers to select only desired cable channels; and

10 WHEREAS, Federal law preempts state regulation of rates and
11 channel selection options for cable television service; and

12 WHEREAS, United States Senator John McCain has introduced S.
13 912 (2013), the Television Consumer Freedom Act of 2013, to
14 provide cable and satellite television customers with an a la
15 carte option to select only those cable or satellite television
16 channels that the customer wants to subscribe to, instead of
17 subscribing to a full multichannel tier; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
19 urge the Congress of the United States to enact S. 912 (2013);
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
22 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
23 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.