



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

**Raised Bill No. 5446**

LCO No. 2730



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:

(ET)

***AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION, THE CONNECTICUT TELEVISION NETWORK AND LOW-INCOME INTERNET ACCESS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 12-256 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024, and*  
3 *applicable to quarterly periods commencing on and after October 1, 2024*):

4 (a) For purposes of this [section,] section:

5 (1) "Person" means person, as defined in section 12-1;

6 (2) "Communications services provider" means any person engaged  
7 in the business of providing services to end users in the state through  
8 landline facilities, wireless facilities or satellite transmission  
9 constructed, operated or maintained by: (A) A telephone company or a  
10 domestic telephone company, as such terms are defined in section 16-1;  
11 (B) a certified telecommunications provider, as defined in section 16-1,  
12 that holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity; (C) a  
13 community antenna television company, that operates pursuant to a

14 certificate of public convenience and necessity; (D) a certified  
15 competitive video service provider, as defined in section 16-1; (E) a  
16 provider of noncable communications service, as defined in section 16-  
17 1; (F) a cellular mobile telephone carrier that provides cellular mobile  
18 telephone service pursuant to section 16-250b; or (G) any combination  
19 thereof;

20 (3) "Communications services" means any services provided by a  
21 communications services provider;

22 (4) "Landline facilities" means lines, facilities, apparatus and auxiliary  
23 equipment located in, under or over any public street or highway or in  
24 any other area and that are used to transmit or deliver communications  
25 services;

26 (5) "Wireless facilities" means any facilities used for the transmission  
27 or delivery of cellular mobile telephone service or mobile  
28 telecommunications service, or for satellite transmission;

29 (6) "Satellite transmission" means the transmission or delivery of  
30 communications services by satellites in orbit around the earth,  
31 irrespective of whether such services are transmitted or delivered  
32 pursuant to a certificate from the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority;

33 (7) ["quarterly period"] "Quarterly period" means a period of three  
34 calendar months commencing on the first day of January, April, July or  
35 October and ending on the last day of March, June, September or  
36 December, respectively.

37 (b) Each [person operating a community antenna television system  
38 under chapter 289 or a certified competitive video service pursuant to  
39 sections 16-331e to 16-331o, inclusive, and each person operating a  
40 business that provides one-way transmission to subscribers of video  
41 programming by satellite,] communications services provider shall pay  
42 a quarterly tax upon the gross earnings from (1) [the lines, facilities,  
43 apparatus and auxiliary equipment in this state used for operating a  
44 community antenna television system] landline facilities used to

45 provide communications services to persons in the state, or (2) the  
46 transmission [to subscribers in this state of video programming by  
47 satellite or by a certified competitive video service provider, as the case  
48 may be] of any communications services to persons in the state through  
49 wireless facilities or through satellite transmission. No deduction shall  
50 be allowed from such gross earnings for operations related to  
51 commissions, rebates or other payments, except such refunds as arise  
52 from errors or overcharges. On or before the last day of the month next  
53 succeeding each quarterly period, each such person shall render to the  
54 commissioner a return on forms prescribed or furnished by the  
55 commissioner, signed by the person performing the duties of treasurer  
56 or an authorized agent or officer of the system or service operated by  
57 such person, which return shall include information regarding the name  
58 and location within this state of such system or service and the total  
59 amount of gross earnings derived from such operations and such other  
60 facts as the commissioner may require for the purpose of making any  
61 computation required by this chapter.

62 (c) For purposes of this chapter, [a holder of a certificate of cable  
63 franchise authority under section 16-331p, and a community antenna  
64 television company issued a certificate of video franchise authority  
65 under section 16-331e for any service area in which it was not certified  
66 to provide community antenna television service pursuant to section 16-  
67 331 on or before October 1, 2007, shall be treated as a person operating  
68 a community antenna television system under chapter 289] gross  
69 earnings shall include: (1) Gross receipts from the charge for any  
70 communications services billed to a person in the state; (2) receipts from  
71 any subscriber line charges or other charges or assessments required by  
72 the Federal Communications Commission, or from any other  
73 governmental fees or assessments that are itemized on a customer's  
74 billing statement; (3) any charges for the installation or maintenance of  
75 wiring on a customer's premises; (4) any charges for the purchase or  
76 rental of equipment, modems, phones or other devices that enable or  
77 facilitate the use and enjoyment of any communications services; and (5)  
78 any other service charges or fees assessed by the communications

79 services provider.

80 (d) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any state entity  
81 providing services pursuant to section 4d-82.

82 Sec. 2. Section 12-258 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
83 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024, and*  
84 *applicable to quarterly periods commencing on and after October 1, 2024*):

85 (a) Each [person included in section 12-256] communications services  
86 provider, as defined in section 12-256, as amended by this act, shall be  
87 taxed upon the amount of the gross earnings in each quarterly period  
88 from the lines, facilities, apparatus and auxiliary equipment operated by  
89 it in this state, or from the transmission of [video programming] any  
90 services to persons in the state by satellite transmission or [by a certified  
91 competitive video service provider to subscribers in this state,] wireless  
92 facilities, as such terms are defined in section 12-256, as amended by this  
93 act, as [the case may be] applicable, at the rates provided in this section.

94 (b) Gross earnings for any quarterly period, for the purposes of  
95 assessment and taxation, shall be as follows: In the case of a person  
96 carrying on the business wholly within the limits of this state, the entire  
97 amount of the gross earnings subject to the tax imposed under section  
98 12-256, as amended by this act; in the case of a person also carrying on  
99 the business outside of this state, a portion of the entire amount of the  
100 gross earnings subject to the tax imposed under section 12-256, as  
101 amended by this act, apportioned to this state as follows:

102 (1) In the case of a [person operating a community antenna television  
103 system] communications services provider, as defined in section 12-256,  
104 as amended by this act, that provides services to persons in the state  
105 through landline facilities, as defined in section 12-256, as amended by  
106 this act, such portion of the total gross earnings from the lines, facilities,  
107 apparatus and auxiliary equipment operated by it as is represented by  
108 the total number of miles of lines operated by such person within this  
109 state on the first day and on the last day of such quarterly period to the  
110 total number of miles of lines operated by such person both within and

111 without the state on said dates, except as provided in subdivision (3) of  
112 this subsection;

113 (2) [in] In the case of a [person operating a business that provides one-  
114 way transmission to subscribers of video programming by satellite]  
115 communications services provider, as defined in section 12-256, as  
116 amended by this act, that provides services to persons in the state by  
117 satellite or wireless facilities, as defined in section 12-256, as amended  
118 by this act, such portion of the total gross earnings from the transmission  
119 to subscribers in this state as is represented by the total number of  
120 subscribers served by such person within this state on the first day and  
121 on the last day of such quarterly period to the total number of  
122 subscribers served by such person both within and without the state on  
123 said dates; and

124 (3) [in] In the case of a [person providing] communications services  
125 provider, as defined in section 12-256, as amended by this act, that is a  
126 certified competitive video service provider, as defined in section 16-1,  
127 such portion of the total gross earnings from the transmission to  
128 subscribers in this state as is represented by the total number of  
129 subscribers served by such person within this state on the first and the  
130 last days of such quarterly period to the average of the total number of  
131 subscribers served by such person both within and without the state on  
132 said dates.

133 (c) The rates of tax on the gross earnings as determined in this section  
134 shall be as follows: [(1) Persons operating a community antenna  
135 television system or a certified competitive video service, five] Five per  
136 cent of such gross earnings, reduced by: [any] (1) Any assessments made  
137 pursuant to section 16-49 which are attributable to the year in which  
138 such tax is assessed; and (2) [persons operating a business that provides  
139 one-way transmission to subscribers of video programming by satellite,  
140 five per cent of such gross earnings] any fee for community access  
141 operations funding assessed to such communications services provider,  
142 as defined in section 12-256, as amended by this act, by the Public  
143 Utilities Regulatory Authority pursuant to subsection (k) of section 16-

144 331a, as amended by this act, provided that any such provider did not  
145 charge any community access fee on any bill to a subscriber of cable or  
146 video service or to any other end-user of services provided by such  
147 provider.

148 Sec. 3. Section 12-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
149 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024, and*  
150 *applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2024*):

151 Real and tangible personal property owned by any company,  
152 including a foreign municipal electric utility as defined in section 12-59,  
153 employed in the manufacture, transmission or distribution of gas or  
154 electricity or both to be used for light, heat or motive power or in the  
155 operation of a system of water works for selling or distributing water or  
156 both for domestic or power purposes or for two or more of such  
157 purposes shall be set in the list of each town where such property is  
158 situated on its assessment day and shall be liable to taxation at such  
159 percentage of its fair market value as is determined by the assessors  
160 under the provisions of sections 12-64 and 12-71. The provisions of this  
161 section shall not affect the provisions of section 12-76. Property subject  
162 to taxation under the provisions of this section shall not be subject to  
163 taxation under the provisions of sections 12-77, 12-78 and 12-79.  
164 Railroad companies subject to taxation under the provisions of chapter  
165 210 [, and express, telephone and cable companies subject to taxation  
166 under the provisions of chapter 211,] shall not be subject to the  
167 provisions of this section.

168 Sec. 4. Subsection (e) of section 12-80a of the general statutes is  
169 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
170 *1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1,*  
171 *2024*):

172 (e) For assessment years commencing on or after October 1, [1997]  
173 2024, the provisions of this section, including informational reporting  
174 requirements imposed on owners, shall [also] apply [, to the extent  
175 provided in section 12-80b,] to property that is used both to render  
176 telecommunications service subject to tax under chapter 219 and to

177 render community antenna television service subject to tax under  
178 chapter 219. [and that is required, under subsection (a) of section 12-80b,  
179 to be taxed as provided in this section.]

180 Sec. 5. Section 16-331a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
181 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

182 (a) As used in this section, "multichannel video programming  
183 distributor" means a multichannel video programming distributor, as  
184 defined in 47 CFR 76.1300, as amended from time to time, [amended,]  
185 and includes an owner of an open video system, as defined in 47 CFR  
186 76.1500, as amended from time to time. [amended.]

187 (b) Each community antenna television company or organization  
188 selected pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, in consultation with  
189 the franchise's advisory council, shall provide facilities, equipment, and  
190 technical and managerial support to enable the production of  
191 meaningful community access programming within [its] a franchise  
192 area. Each community antenna television company shall include all [its]  
193 community access channels in [its] such company's basic service  
194 package. Each company or organization shall annually review its rules,  
195 regulations, policies and procedures governing the provision of  
196 community access programming. Such review shall include a period for  
197 public comment, a public meeting and consultation with the franchise's  
198 advisory council.

199 (c) If a community-based nonprofit organization in a franchise area  
200 desires to assume responsibility for community access operations, [it]  
201 the authority shall, upon [timely] petition [to the authority, be granted  
202 intervenor status in a franchise] by such organization, hold a proceeding  
203 [held] pursuant to this section. The authority shall assign [this]  
204 responsibility for community access operations to the most qualified  
205 community-based nonprofit organization or to the community antenna  
206 television company in such franchise area based on the following  
207 criteria: (1) The recommendations of the advisory council and of the  
208 municipalities in the franchise area; (2) a review of the organization's or

209 the company's performance in providing community access  
210 programming; (3) the operating plan submitted by the organization and  
211 the company for providing community access programming; (4) the  
212 experience in community access programming of the organization; (5)  
213 the organization's and the company's proposed budget, including  
214 expenses for salaries, consultants, attorneys, and other professionals; (6)  
215 the quality and quantity of the programming to be created, promoted or  
216 facilitated by the organization or the company; (7) a review of the  
217 organization's procedures to ensure compliance with federal and state  
218 law, including the regulations of Connecticut state agencies; and (8) any  
219 other criteria determined to be relevant by the authority. If the authority  
220 selects an organization to provide community access operations, the  
221 company shall provide financial and technical support to the  
222 organization in an amount to be determined by the authority. On  
223 petition of the Office of Consumer Counsel or the franchise's advisory  
224 council or on its own motion, the authority shall hold a hearing, with  
225 notice, on the ability of the organization to continue [its] such  
226 organization's responsibility for community access operations. In its  
227 decision following such a hearing, the authority may reassign the  
228 responsibility for community access operations to another organization  
229 or the company in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

230 (d) Each company or organization shall conduct outreach programs  
231 and promote its community access services [. Such outreach and  
232 promotion may include, but not be limited to (1) broadcasting cross-  
233 channel video announcements, (2) distributing information throughout  
234 the franchise area and not solely to its subscribers, (3) including  
235 community access information in its regular marketing publications, (4)  
236 broadcasting character-generated text messages or video  
237 announcements on barker or access channels, (5) making speaking  
238 engagements, (6) holding open receptions at its community access  
239 facilities, and (7) in multitown franchise areas, encouraging the  
240 formation and development of local community access studios operated  
241 by volunteers or nonprofit operating groups] in a manner that best  
242 serves the relevant community or communities, as determined by the



243 authority.

244 (e) Each company or organization shall adopt for its community  
245 access programming a scheduling policy which encourages  
246 programming diversity. Said scheduling policy shall include: (1)  
247 [limiting] Limiting a program, except instructional access and  
248 governmental access programming, to thirteen weeks in any one time  
249 slot when a producer of another program requests the same time slot,  
250 (2) procedures for resolving program scheduling conflicts, and (3) other  
251 measures which the company or organization deems appropriate. A  
252 company or organization may consider the availability of a substantially  
253 similar time slot when making community access programming  
254 scheduling decisions.

255 (f) [In the case of any initial, transfer or renewal franchise proceeding  
256 held on or after October 1, 1990, the] The authority may, on its own  
257 initiative, [in the first six months of the second, fifth, eighth and eleventh  
258 years of the franchise term,] review and evaluate the company's or the  
259 organization's provision of community access programming. [The  
260 authority shall conduct such review or evaluation in any such  
261 proceeding held on or after October 1, 1990, if] If the Consumer Counsel  
262 or any interested party petitions the authority for such a review, [during  
263 the first six months of the review year] the authority shall conduct such  
264 review and evaluation. During any such review, [year,] if an  
265 organization desires to provide community access operations it shall  
266 petition the authority and the authority shall follow the procedures and  
267 standards described in subsection (c) of this section in determining  
268 whether to assign to the organization the responsibility to provide such  
269 operations. No community access programming produced using the  
270 facilities or staff of an organization or company providing community  
271 access operations shall be utilized for commercial purposes without  
272 express prior written agreement between the producer of such  
273 programming and the organization or company providing community  
274 access operations the facilities or staff of which were used in the  
275 production of the programming. Such an agreement may include,  
276 without limitation, a provision [regarding] that requires the producer

277 [and] of programming utilized for commercial purposes to share profits  
278 realized by such programming with the company or organization.  
279 [sharing any profit realized from such programming so utilized.] An  
280 organization providing community access operations shall consult with  
281 the company in the franchise area prior to making such an agreement.

282 (g) No organization or company providing community access  
283 operations shall exercise editorial control over such programming,  
284 except as to programming that is obscene and except as otherwise  
285 allowed by applicable state and federal law. This subsection shall not be  
286 construed to prohibit such organization or company from limiting the  
287 hours during which adult programs may be aired. Such organization or  
288 company may consult with the advisory council in determining what  
289 constitutes an adult program for purposes of this subsection.

290 (h) Upon the request of the Office of Consumer Counsel or the  
291 franchise's advisory council, and for good cause shown, the authority  
292 shall require [an] the company or organization responsible for  
293 community access operations within a franchise area to have an  
294 independent audit conducted at the expense of [the] such company or  
295 organization. For purposes of this subsection, "good cause" may include,  
296 but need not be limited to, the failure or refusal of such organization: (1)  
297 [to] To account for and reimburse the community access programming  
298 budget for its commercial use of community access programming  
299 facilities, equipment or staff, or for the allocation of such facilities,  
300 equipment or staff to functions not directly related to the community  
301 access operations of the franchise, (2) to carry over unexpended  
302 community access programming budget accounts at the end of each  
303 fiscal year, (3) to properly maintain community access programming  
304 facilities or equipment in good repair, [or] (4) to plan for the replacement  
305 of community access programming equipment made obsolete by  
306 technological advances, or (5) to make efforts to facilitate the production  
307 of local programming and to ensure that such programming is carried  
308 on a community antenna television company's basic service package. In  
309 response to any such request, the authority shall state, in writing, the  
310 reasons for its determination.

311 (i) (1) Each company and nonprofit organization providing  
312 community access operations shall report annually to the authority on  
313 or before February fifteenth. The authority shall adopt regulations, in  
314 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to specify the information  
315 [which shall be] that is required in such report. Such information shall  
316 [be] include information necessary for the authority to carry out the  
317 provisions of this section.

318 (2) The authority may request additional information from any such  
319 company or organization that is not provided in such annual report if  
320 the authority determines that having such additional information is  
321 necessary for the authority to carry out the provisions of this section.

322 (j) The advisory council shall review all community access  
323 programming of a company or organization within the franchise area  
324 which programming has been the subject of a complaint.

325 (k) [The] (1) For each franchise area, the authority shall establish the  
326 amount that the company or organization responsible for community  
327 access operations in such franchise area shall receive for such  
328 operations. [from subscribers and from multichannel video  
329 programming distributors.]

330 (2) The total amount of funding for all community access operations  
331 in the state for the calendar year commencing January 1, 2025, and each  
332 calendar year thereafter, shall [be five dollars per subscriber per year]  
333 equal the total amount of funding that all companies and organizations  
334 responsible for community access operations in the state received from  
335 subscriber fees in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, adjusted annually  
336 by a percentage reflecting the increase or decrease of the consumer price  
337 index [for the preceding calendar year] in the years following said fiscal  
338 year, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of  
339 Labor Statistics, provided the authority may increase or decrease the  
340 total amount by not more than forty per cent [of said amount for the  
341 subscribers and all multichannel video programming distributors  
342 within a franchise area after considering (1) the] in any given year. In

343 deciding whether to increase or decrease the total amount, the authority  
344 shall consider: (A) The criteria set forth in subsection (c) of this section,  
345 [(2)] (B) the level of public interest in community access operations in  
346 the franchise area, [(3)] (C) the level of community need for educational  
347 access programming, [(4)] (D) the level and breadth of participation in  
348 community access operations, [(5)] (E) the adequacy of existing facilities,  
349 equipment and training programs to meet the current and future needs  
350 of the franchise area, and [(6)] (F) any other factors determined to be  
351 relevant by the authority. Prior to increasing or decreasing [said] such  
352 amount, the authority shall give notice and opportunity for a hearing to  
353 the company, organization or, where applicable, the multichannel video  
354 programming distributor. [and, where applicable, the organization  
355 responsible for community access programming. The amount shall be  
356 assessed once each year for each end user premises connected to an open  
357 video system, irrespective of the number of multichannel video  
358 programming distributors providing programming over the open video  
359 system.]

360 (3) The authority shall assess a fee to each holder of a certificate of  
361 cable franchise authority or a certificate of video franchise authority that  
362 provides video programming to a franchise area that existed on October  
363 1, 2007. If more than one such certificate holder serves such franchise  
364 area, the authority shall apportion such fee based on the ratio of  
365 subscribers of such certificate holder in such franchise area on the first  
366 day of such calendar year to the total number of subscribers of all  
367 certificate holders that serve such franchise area on the first day of such  
368 calendar year. If a community access operation is managed by a  
369 nonprofit organization, the authority shall require each certificate  
370 holder to pay the fee in installments of not less than twenty-five per cent  
371 of the total annual fee directly to such nonprofit organization, not later  
372 than twenty-five days after the last day of each calendar quarter. The  
373 total annual fees assessed by the authority to all certificate holders in a  
374 franchise area shall equal the amount established pursuant to  
375 subdivision (1) of this subsection for such franchise area.

376 (4) When the authority [issues, transfers or renews a certificate of

377 public convenience and necessity to operate a community antenna  
378 television system] (A) approves the transfer of a certificate of video  
379 franchise authority or a certificate of cable franchise authority, or (B)  
380 approves an application under section 16-47 for a merger, acquisition or  
381 change of control involving any holder of a certificate of cable franchise  
382 authority or certificate of video franchise authority, or involving a  
383 holding company that controls any such holder of a certificate of cable  
384 franchise authority or certificate of video franchise authority, the  
385 authority shall include in the [franchise agreement] final decision the  
386 amount that the company or organization responsible for community  
387 access operations shall receive for such operations. [from subscribers.  
388 The authority shall conduct a proceeding to establish the amount that  
389 the company or organization responsible for community access  
390 operations shall receive for such operations from multichannel video  
391 programming distributors and the method of payment of said amount.  
392 The authority shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to  
393 implement the provisions of this subsection.]

394 (l) An organization assigned responsibility for community access  
395 operations [which organization] that ceases to provide such operations  
396 shall transfer its assets to the successor organization assigned such  
397 responsibility or, if no successor organization is assigned such  
398 responsibility, to another nonprofit organization within the franchise  
399 area selected by the authority.

400 [(m) On petition or its own motion, the authority shall determine  
401 whether a franchise area is subject to effective competition, as defined  
402 in 47 USC 543, as from time to time amended. Upon a determination  
403 that a franchise area is subject to effective competition, the provisions of  
404 this section shall apply to multichannel video programming distributors  
405 operating in the franchise area, provided (1) where multichannel video  
406 programming distributors provide programming over a single open  
407 video system, the provisions of this section shall apply jointly and not  
408 separately to all such distributors providing programming on the same  
409 open video system, and (2) the provisions of subsection (k) of this  
410 section shall apply to multichannel video programming distributors

411 whether or not such distributors operate in a franchise area subject to  
412 such effective competition.]

413 ~~[(n)]~~ (m) No community antenna television company or nonprofit  
414 organization providing community access operations shall refuse to  
415 engage in good faith negotiation regarding interconnection of such  
416 operations with other community antenna television companies serving  
417 the same area. No school or facility owned or leased by a municipal  
418 government that possesses community access operations equipment  
419 shall unreasonably deny interconnection with or the use of such  
420 equipment to any such company or nonprofit organization. At the  
421 request of such a company or nonprofit organization providing  
422 community access operations, the authority may facilitate the  
423 negotiation between such company or organization and any other  
424 community antenna television company regarding interconnection of  
425 community access operations.

426 ~~[(o)]~~ (n) Each company or organization shall consult with its advisory  
427 council in the formation of a community access programming policy,  
428 the adoption of the community access programming budget and the  
429 allocation of capital equipment and community access programming  
430 resources.

431 (o) Each household unit in any multiunit residential building or other  
432 facility subject to the provisions of section 16-333a, that subscribes to  
433 video programming, has constituted and shall continue to constitute an  
434 individual subscriber, notwithstanding any joint or bulk billing  
435 arrangement that existed prior to the effective date of this section. The  
436 authority shall ensure that (1) any past subscriber counting was  
437 accurate, and (2) ongoing subscriber counting is accurate. The authority  
438 may issue orders to retroactively and prospectively correct the counting  
439 of subscribers.

440 (p) Each company or organization assigned responsibility for  
441 community access operations under this section has the right to record  
442 in person and transmit live any public meeting or official event of any

443 municipality, as defined in section 12-41, or any regional council of  
444 government organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p,  
445 inclusive. The authority may investigate any dispute or complaint  
446 arising under this subsection.

447 (q) Not later than July 1, 2030, and July first every five years  
448 thereafter, the authority shall, in accordance with the provisions of  
449 section 11-4a, report to the joint standing committee of the General  
450 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and  
451 technology on the status of funding for community access operations  
452 during the five years preceding such report and the quantity of  
453 community access programming that was produced locally during such  
454 period, as reported by each community access organization or  
455 community antenna television company.

456 Sec. 6. Section 2-71x of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is  
457 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
458 *1, 2024*):

459 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year  
460 thereafter, the Comptroller shall segregate three million two hundred  
461 thousand dollars of the amount of the funds received by the state from  
462 the tax imposed under chapter 211 on [public service companies  
463 providing community antenna television service] communications  
464 services providers in [this] the state. The moneys segregated by the  
465 Comptroller shall be deposited with the Treasurer and made available  
466 to the Office of Legislative Management to defray the cost of providing  
467 the citizens of [this] the state with Connecticut Television Network  
468 coverage of state government deliberations and public policy events.

469 Sec. 7. Section 16-331cc of the general statutes is repealed and the  
470 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

471 (a) There is established an account to be known as the "public,  
472 educational and governmental programming and education technology  
473 investment account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account  
474 within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys

475 required by law to be deposited in the account and any interest or  
476 penalties collected by the Commissioner of Revenue Services pursuant  
477 to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section.

478 (b) The moneys in said account shall be expended by the Public  
479 Utilities Regulatory Authority as follows: (1) Fifty per cent of said  
480 moneys shall be available to [local community antenna television and  
481 video advisory councils; the state-wide video advisory council; public,  
482 educational and governmental programmers and] public, educational  
483 and governmental studio operators to subsidize capital and equipment  
484 costs related to producing and procuring such programming, and (2)  
485 fifty per cent of said moneys shall be available to boards of education  
486 and other primary or secondary education entities as grants for  
487 education technology initiatives that promote digital equity and digital  
488 literacy, as such terms are defined in section 16-330a. If requested by the  
489 Commission for Educational Technology established pursuant to  
490 section 4d-80, the authority shall consult with said commission  
491 concerning any application for a grant for an education technology  
492 initiative pursuant to this subsection.

493 (c) (1) The account shall be supported solely through [a tax equal to  
494 one-half of one per cent of the gross earnings from rendering  
495 community antenna television service, video programming service by  
496 satellite and certified competitive video service in this state for quarterly  
497 periods beginning on or after October 1, 2007, and before October 1,  
498 2009, and] a tax equal to one-quarter of one per cent of the gross earnings  
499 from rendering [community antenna television service, video  
500 programming service by satellite and certified competitive video] any  
501 service in this state for quarterly periods beginning on or after [October  
502 1, 2009] January 1, 2025, by each [person operating a community  
503 antenna television system under this chapter or a certified competitive  
504 video service pursuant to sections 16-331e to 16-331p, inclusive, and  
505 each person operating a business that provides one-way transmission to  
506 subscribers of video programming by satellite] communications  
507 services provider, as defined in section 12-256, as amended by this act.  
508 Such tax for a quarterly period shall be remitted to the Department of



509 Revenue Services, on or before the last day of the month next succeeding  
510 the quarterly period, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of  
511 Revenue Services, which form shall be signed by the person performing  
512 the duties of treasurer or an authorized agent or officer. For the  
513 purposes of this section, gross earnings in this state shall be determined  
514 in a manner consistent with chapter 211.

515 (2) The amount of any tax due and unpaid under this section shall be  
516 subject to the penalties and interest established in sections 12-268d and  
517 12-268e, and the taxpayer from which such tax is due and unpaid shall  
518 be subject to the administrative provisions of sections 12-268f, 12-268g,  
519 12-268i and 12-268l. The amount of any tax, penalty or interest due and  
520 unpaid under this section may be collected under the provisions of  
521 section 12-35.

522 (d) On or before October 1, 2007, the Public Utilities Regulatory  
523 Authority shall initiate a contested case proceeding to establish  
524 eligibility requirements and procedures for applying for allocations  
525 from the account. On or before April 1, 2008, the authority shall issue a  
526 final decision in the contested case proceeding. Such decision shall  
527 include any recommendations to the Governor and the General  
528 Assembly that the authority deems necessary with regard to the  
529 ongoing operation of the account.

530 [(e) For purposes of this section, a holder of a certificate of cable  
531 franchise authority pursuant to section 16-331p shall be treated as a  
532 person operating a community antenna television system pursuant to  
533 this chapter and community antenna television service shall include  
534 service provided by a holder of a certificate of cable franchise authority  
535 pursuant to section 16-331p.]

536 [(f)] (e) The Comptroller shall deposit into the public, educational and  
537 governmental programming and education technology investment  
538 account, established pursuant to this section, the total of the tax imposed  
539 on [community antenna television service, video programming service  
540 by satellite and certified competitive video service] communications

541 services providers, as defined in section 12-256, as amended by this act,  
542 pursuant to this section.

543 [(g) When the balance of said account reaches more than one hundred  
544 fifty thousand dollars, the authority shall make a one-time transfer of  
545 one hundred fifty thousand dollars to the Office of Legislative  
546 Management for expenses related to the allowance of interconnection of  
547 the Connecticut Television Network with a certified competitive video  
548 service provider, as defined in section 16-1, for the purpose of making  
549 the Connecticut Television Network available to such provider's  
550 customers.]

551 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective upon passage*) (a) The Office of Consumer  
552 Counsel, in consultation with the Departments of Administrative  
553 Services, Energy and Environmental Protection and Social Services,  
554 shall develop a plan for a Connecticut Internet for All Program to  
555 provide financial assistance to low-income households for subscriptions  
556 to broadband Internet access service. Not later than November 15, 2024,  
557 the Office of Consumer Counsel shall report such plan, and the office's  
558 recommendations, to the Governor, the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
559 and Management and the joint standing committees of the General  
560 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and  
561 technology and finance, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
562 4a of the general statutes. Such plan and report shall base funding for  
563 the Connecticut Internet for All Program on revenue from the gross  
564 earnings tax under sections 12-256, as amended by this act, and 12-258  
565 of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The Office of Consumer  
566 Counsel and the Departments of Administrative Services, Energy and  
567 Environmental Protection and Social Services may consult with other  
568 state agencies and broadband Internet access service providers in  
569 developing such plan and report.

570 Sec. 9. Sections 12-80b and 12-268j of the general statutes are repealed.  
571 (*Effective October 1, 2024*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2024, and applicable to quarterly periods commencing on and after October 1, 2024</i>	12-256
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2024, and applicable to quarterly periods commencing on and after October 1, 2024</i>	12-258
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2024</i>	12-80
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2024</i>	12-80a(e)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	16-331a
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	2-71x
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	16-331cc
Sec. 8	<i>upon passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	Repealer section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) extend the gross earnings tax on cable and satellite television companies to communications services providers, (2) change the method of funding community access television operations, the Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment Account Grant Program and the Connecticut Television Network, and (3) report on a possible program to support low-income households with broadband Internet subscriptions.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*