



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

**Substitute Bill No. 5446**



**AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION, THE CONNECTICUT TELEVISION NETWORK AND LOW-INCOME INTERNET ACCESS AND TAXATION OF COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES PROVIDERS.**

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 Section 12-256 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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; [, "quarterly period"]

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" means a period of three calendar months  
34 commencing on the first day of January, April, July or October and  
35 ending on the last day of March, June, September or December,  
36 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 any such provider did not charge  
145 any community access fee on any bill to a subscriber of cable or video  
146 service or to any other end-user of services provided by such provider.

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 Section 12-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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

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

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168 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  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

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

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

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

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

198 (c) If a community-based nonprofit organization in a franchise area  
199 desires to assume responsibility for community access operations, [it]  
200 the authority shall, upon [timely] petition [to the authority, be granted  
201 intervenor status in a franchise] by such organization, hold a proceeding  
202 [held] pursuant to this section. The authority shall assign [this]  
203 responsibility for community access operations to the most qualified  
204 community-based nonprofit organization or to the community antenna  
205 television company in such franchise area based on the following  
206 criteria: (1) The recommendations of the advisory council and of the  
207 municipalities in the franchise area; (2) a review of the organization's or  
208 the company's performance in providing community access  
209 programming; (3) the operating plan submitted by the organization and  
210 the company for providing community access programming; (4) the  
211 experience in community access programming of the organization; (5)

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

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

243 (e) Each company or organization shall adopt for its community  
244 access programming a scheduling policy which encourages  
245 programming diversity. Said scheduling policy shall include: (1)



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

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

280 the company in the franchise area prior to making such an agreement.

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

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

310 (i) (1) Each company and nonprofit organization providing  
311 community access operations shall report annually to the authority on  
312 or before February fifteenth. The authority shall adopt regulations, in

313 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to specify the information  
314 [which shall be] that is required in such report. Such information shall  
315 [be] include information necessary for the authority to carry out the  
316 provisions of this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

375 (4) When the authority [issues, transfers or renews a certificate of  
376 public convenience and necessity to operate a community antenna  
377 television system] (A) approves the transfer of a certificate of video  
378 franchise authority or a certificate of cable franchise authority, or (B)

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

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

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

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

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

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

439        (p) Each company or organization assigned responsibility for  
440 community access operations under this section has the right to record  
441 in person and transmit live any public meeting or official event of any  
442 municipality, as defined in section 12-41, or any regional council of  
443 government organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p,  
444 inclusive. The authority may investigate any dispute or complaint

445 arising under this subsection.

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

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

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

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

470 (a) There is established an account to be known as the "public,  
471 educational and governmental programming and education technology  
472 investment account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account  
473 within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys  
474 required by law to be deposited in the account and any interest or  
475 penalties collected by the Commissioner of Revenue Services pursuant  
476 to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section.

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

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



511 the duties of treasurer or an authorized agent or officer. For the  
512 purposes of this section, gross earnings in this state shall be determined  
513 in a manner consistent with chapter 211.

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

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

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

535 [(f)] (e) The Comptroller shall deposit into the public, educational and  
536 governmental programming and education technology investment  
537 account, established pursuant to this section, the total of the tax imposed  
538 on [community antenna television service, video programming service  
539 by satellite and certified competitive video service] communications  
540 services providers, as defined in section 12-256, as amended by this act,  
541 pursuant to this section.

542 [(g) When the balance of said account reaches more than one hundred

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

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:
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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>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	Repealer section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 8, "Effective upon passage" was changed to "Effective from passage" for consistency with standard drafting conventions, and "of the general statutes" was added for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

**ET**            *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*