

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON AND SENATOR THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to require that satellite television providers broadcast local television stations.

WHEREAS, the satellite television industry has been a prevalent part of our society due to the many advancements in technology; and

WHEREAS, satellite television provides consumers with a wide range of channels and services; and

WHEREAS, local television stations are a vital and valuable source to their local communities and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, some satellite television providers do not offer local stations to the local communities; and

WHEREAS, the Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act of 1999 (SHVIA) allowed satellite subscribers to be able to receive local stations from their satellite television provider using their satellite systems; and

WHEREAS, the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act of 2004 (SHVERA) expanded programming options to allow satellite television providers to offer certain "significantly viewed" distant stations; and

WHEREAS, SHVIA and SHVERA do not require satellite television providers to offer local stations but rather they permit satellite providers to offer "local-into-local" service; and

WHEREAS, the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA), adopted as part of the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010, reauthorized the expiring statutory licenses that permit satellite providers to retransmit broadcast stations to consumers and modernized and simplified the licenses, while making adjustments that will encourage satellite providers to make more local content available; and

WHEREAS, local television stations serve their communities through public service, local news, entertaining programming, and vital community information such as AMBER Alerts, emergency warnings, traffic information, and severe weather alerts; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that satellite television providers are required to offer these local television stations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to require that satellite television providers broadcast local television stations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE