

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2577**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court**  
**(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

SENATE, Monday, June 25, 2018

The committee on Ways and Means to whom was referred the Senate Bill supporting community access television (Senate, No. 1857),-- reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2577).

For the committee,  
Karen E. Spilka

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act supporting community access television.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 166A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding following  
2 section:-

3           Section 23. (a) A cable television operator shall provide a public, educational or  
4 governmental access channel and connection so that the channel is delivered, and subscribers  
5 receive, the public, educational or governmental access channel with a good quality signal and  
6 in the same format as the primary local broadcast signals, including a high definition format and  
7 a standard digital format if such formats are so delivered and received by subscribers for the  
8 primary local broadcast signals; provided, however, a cable television operator shall not be  
9 required to provide the signal of a public, educational or governmental access channel to a  
10 subscriber on any particular channel number or to provide such signals in any particular order.

11           (b) A cable television operator shall provide a public, educational or governmental access  
12 channel in a nondiscriminatory manner on any navigational device, on-screen program guide or  
13 menu such that a subscriber may access the public, educational or governmental access channel  
14 in the same manner as local broadcast channels.

15           (c) For the purpose of this section, a cable television operator shall include a cable  
16 operator and a multichannel video programming distributor as defined in 47 U.S.C. 522.

17           (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, condition or restrict a cable television operator's  
18 use of any type of subscriber equipment or any transmission technology.