

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 39

Introduced by Assembly Member Roger Hernández

February 19, 2014

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 39—Relative to cable and video service.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 39, as introduced, Roger Hernández. Cable and video service.

This measure would call on the United States Congress to amend a specified federal law to allow states and their municipalities to determine the best use of public, educational, and government channel support.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Public, educational, and government (PEG)
2 channels are one of the last surviving sources for local television
3 programming across the country and PEG channels play a
4 significant role in televising open and public meetings; and

5 WHEREAS, PEG channels are a unique and valuable resource
6 for local information and discourse for residents; and

7 WHEREAS, PEG channels televise local government meetings,
8 including city commission meetings, planning commission
9 meetings, county board of supervisors meetings, and school board
10 meetings, so that citizens are informed about the actions taken by
11 local officials; and

12 WHEREAS, PEG channels also are utilized to communicate
13 with citizens on municipal events and services and provide
14 advisories and preparation directions to residents for emergency
15 purposes; and

1 WHEREAS, PEG channels provide a window through which
2 residents can view the diversity of cultures, educational
3 information, recreational activities, and artistic endeavors in their
4 local community; and

5 WHEREAS, PEG channels reflect the unique identity of the
6 communities they serve; and

7 WHEREAS, It is important to preserve PEG channels and
8 funding for PEG channels and to ensure that PEG channels
9 continue to be available to the entire community to serve residents;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Section 542 of Title 47 of the United States Code
12 puts limitations on how PEG channel funds can be used, and, if
13 amended, would address critical and immediate threats to PEG
14 channels; and

15 WHEREAS, These amendments would provide solutions for
16 critical and immediate threats to PEG channels and facilities in
17 California and across the country by removing use restrictions on
18 PEG channel access fees, restoring PEG channel revenue streams,
19 and preventing video providers from charging municipalities for
20 the transmission of the PEG channels; and

21 WHEREAS, This change to federal law would allow PEG
22 channel fees to once again be used for any legitimate PEG channel
23 expense instead of restricting PEG channel fees to capital expenses
24 only; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
26 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature calls on the United States
27 Congress to amend Section 542 of Title 47 of the United States
28 Code to allow states and their municipalities to determine the best
29 use of PEG channel support; and be it further

30 *Resolved,* That the Legislature calls on the United States
31 Congress to eliminate an outdated and unnecessary pre-1984
32 distinction that does not give flexibility to local governments to
33 utilize PEG channel funds for any legitimate PEG channel expense
34 in addition to capital expenses; and be it further

35 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
36 of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the
37 United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to
38 the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and

- 1 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
- 2 States.

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