

1034

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 8, 2015

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Introduced by Sen. AVELLA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications

AN ACT to authorize and direct the department of public service to study and report on the current status of cable television systems operating and providing services to the customer premises over fiberoptic cables

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby declares that  
2     the public interest is furthered by the broadest possible deployment of  
3     consumer-available high-speed internet service at reasonable prices, to  
4     the largest number of New York households and businesses as is practica-  
5     ble. Due to the ubiquity of such service provided by cable television  
6     companies, and such companies' provision of high-speed internet to the  
7     home and workplace, and the greater speeds demonstrated around the rest  
8     of the world by systems providing high-speed internet by fiberoptic  
9     cable to the premises, the legislature finds that it has a compelling  
10    interest in closer oversight of the cable television systems, whether  
11    completed or under construction, that provide such services and allow  
12    the citizens of the state of New York to access government or other  
13    services from home or otherwise remotely.

14    S 2. Study. a. The department of public service shall, within thirty  
15    days of the effective date of this act, undertake a study, pursuant to  
16    its duty under subdivision 11 of section 215 of the public service law,  
17    of the current status of cable television systems operating and provid-  
18    ing services to the customer premises over fiberoptic cables. This study  
19    shall include:

20    (i) the total number of franchises such companies have or operate  
21    where service is provided to the customer premises over fiberoptic  
22    cable;

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

LBD01964-01-5

1 (ii) the complete list of municipalities of franchises such companies  
2 have or operate where service is provided to the customer premises over  
3 fiberoptic cable;

4 (iii) a demographic analysis of the racial, ethnic and income charac-  
5 teristics of the residents of each municipality by franchise such compa-  
6 nies have or operate where service is provided to the customer premises  
7 over fiberoptic cable based on the results of the most recent decennial  
8 census conducted by the census bureau of the United States;

9 (iv) a demographic analysis of the racial, ethnic and income charac-  
10 teristics of the residents of each municipality where such companies do  
11 not have or do not operate a franchise where service is provided to the  
12 customer premises over fiberoptic cable based on the results of the most  
13 recent decennial census conducted by the census bureau of the United  
14 States; and

15 (v) a further breakdown by county, where applicable, and region of the  
16 state of New York as defined by the empire state development corporation  
17 of the demographic analysis of the racial, ethnic and income character-  
18 istics of the residents of both the municipalities with which such  
19 companies have or operate a franchise where service is provided to the  
20 customer premises over fiberoptic cable and the municipalities with  
21 which such companies do not have or do not operate a franchise where  
22 service is provided to the customer premises over fiberoptic cable.

23 b. In furtherance of such study, the department shall require cable  
24 television companies operating or constructing cable television systems  
25 providing service over fiberoptic cables to the customer premises, to  
26 report to the department within sixty days of the effective date of this  
27 act the following:

28 (i) the total number of franchises such companies have or operate  
29 where service is provided to the customer premises over fiberoptic  
30 cable;

31 (ii) the percentage of completion of infrastructure construction and  
32 activation in each franchise such companies have or operate;

33 (iii) an analysis of such companies' franchises, broken down by region  
34 of the state, county and municipality, as applicable, showing the aver-  
35 age time to completion of the infrastructure buildout of each franchise,  
36 or of the current status of a franchise buildout if it is not completed;

37 (iv) an analysis of such companies' franchises, broken down by census  
38 tract, showing the status of buildout of such census tracts, the average  
39 time to completion of the buildout in each census tract, and including  
40 data on whether any or all of such census tracts are distressed census  
41 tracts, as such are defined by the census bureau of the United States,  
42 and whether and how the time to completion of the buildout in any such  
43 distressed census tracts differs from the time to completion of buildout  
44 in non-distressed census tracts; and

45 (v) an analysis of the data provided for such report by the relevant  
46 cable companies, which shows any disparate buildout completion speed or  
47 franchise area coverage by race, ethnicity or income demographics.

48 c. Within ninety days of the effective date of this act, the depart-  
49 ment shall report the results of the study required pursuant to subdivi-  
50 sion a of this section to the public service commission, the governor,  
51 the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, and  
52 the chair of both the senate and assembly standing committees on corpo-  
53 rations, authorities and commissions.

54 d. Within one hundred twenty days of the effective date of this act,  
55 the public service commission shall open a proceeding to inquire into  
56 the progress of such cable television systems as are being built, or

1 have been built since 1996, which provide cable television and other  
2 services to the customer premises over fiberoptic cable. Such proceeding  
3 shall inquire into such factors the commission finds necessary and  
4 prudent, including, but not limited to, whether, despite its economic  
5 feasibility, the construction or operation of a franchised or certif-  
6 icated cable television system providing service over fiberoptic cable  
7 to the customer premises has been unreasonably delayed, or that the  
8 extension of service to any persons or areas within the territory of a  
9 cable television company providing service over fiberoptic cable to the  
10 customer premises has been unreasonably withheld, and whether a remedial  
11 order pursuant to the commission's powers under section 224 of the  
12 public service law might be required by the public interest.

13 S 3. Severability. If any provision of this act, or the application  
14 thereof to any person or circumstance, shall be adjudged by any court of  
15 competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such judgement  
16 shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall  
17 be confined in its operation to the provision of this act, or in its  
18 application to the person or circumstance, directly involved in the  
19 controversy in which such judgement shall have been rendered.

20 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.