

minimum franchise fees for each calendar year during which the franchise is effective. In any year in which five (5%) per cent of the gross annual receipts of any Grantee shall be less than the minimum set forth in the franchise, then the Grantee shall pay the minimum compensation.

(b) The Grantee shall pay the minimum amounts set forth in subsection (a) of this section in advance before January 1 of each year.

(c) The Grantee shall report, in such detail as the Council may require, before the twentieth (20th) day of each January, April, July and October its gross annual receipts for the preceding calendar quarter and shall remit:

(1) The amount provided for in subsection (a) of this section.

(d) Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of a franchise issued pursuant to this Act the Grantee shall pay Howard County all monies due and owing to Howard County.

(e) In the event that any payment is not made on or before the applicable date fixed in subsections (b), (c) and (d), interest on such payment shall apply from such date at two percent (2%) above the then prevailing prime rate of interest.

(f) All payments due Howard County shall be made to the Director of Finance of Howard County, Courthouse, Ellicott City, Maryland. The Director of Finance shall deposit all receipts under this Section (14.712) in a fund to be known as "The Public Service Communications Fund," which shall be maintained for the purpose of financing administrative costs incurred by the County in implementing this Act and for financing public service communications on the public channels, the county channels and the education channels. The County Executive shall in the annual budget provide for the expenditure of this Fund, after consultation with the CATV Service Advisory Committee established pursuant to Section 14.709 (g).

(g) In the event the Grantee continues the operation of any part or all of the System beyond the cancellation or expiration of the franchise to be issued pursuant to this Act, it shall pay to Howard County the compensation as set forth in this Act at the rate in effect at the time of such cancellation or expiration, and in the manner set forth in this Act at the rate in effect at the time of such cancellation or expiration, and in the manner set in this Act, together with all taxes it would have been required to pay had its operation been duly authorized.

(h) Payments of compensation made by the Grantee to Howard County pursuant to the provisions of this Act shall not be considered in the nature of a tax, but shall be in addition to any and all taxes which are now or hereafter required to be paid by any law of the State of Maryland, Howard County, or the United States.

14.713. Operational Standards.

The CATV System shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the highest accepted standards of the cable and communications industries and the FCC to the end that the subscriber may receive the highest and most desirable form of service.

(a) In determining satisfactory compliance with the provisions of this section, the following, among other things shall be considered: