

Baltimore City to supplant competition by granting one or more franchise(s) for cable television system(s) on an exclusive basis, to impose franchise fees, to establish certain rates charged to subscribers and to establish rules and regulations to govern the operation of the franchise(s).

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, for purposes of this Act, a cable television system shall be defined as provided for by local law in a county, municipality or Baltimore City, or, if not so provided for, shall be defined as a nonbroadcast facility consisting of a set of transmission paths and associated signal generation, reception, and central equipment, under common ownership and control, that distributes or is designed to distribute to subscribers the signals of one or more television broadcast stations, but such term shall not include (1) any such facility that serves fewer than 50 subscribers, or (2) any such facility that serves or will serve only subscribers in one or more multiple unit dwellings under common ownership, control or management.

SECTION -1-- 3. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Charter of Baltimore City read(s) as follows:

The Charter of Baltimore City

Article II. - General Powers

The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall have full power and authority to exercise all of the powers heretofore or hereafter granted to it by the Constitution of Maryland or by any Public General or Public Local Laws of the State of Maryland; and in particular, without limitation upon the foregoing, shall have power by ordinance, or such other method as may be provided for in its Charter, subject to the provisions of said Constitution and Public General Laws:

~~(35A) -- TO GRANT ONE OR MORE FRANCHISES, -- WHICH -- MAY -- BE EXCLUSIVE IN NATURE, -- FOR A COMMUNITY ANTENNA SYSTEM OR OTHER CABLE -- TELEVISION -- SYSTEM, -- TO -- ESTABLISH RATES AND REGULATE SERVICES, -- TO IMPOSE FRANCHISE FEES, -- AND TO -- ESTABLISH -- OTHER RULES -- TO GOVERN THE OPERATION OF THE FRANCHISES --~~

(35A) TO GRANT ONE OR MORE EXCLUSIVE OR NONEXCLUSIVE FRANCHISES FOR A COMMUNITY ANTENNA SYSTEM OR OTHER CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM THAT UTILIZES ANY PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY, HIGHWAY, STREET, ROAD, LANE, ALLEY, OR BRIDGE, TO IMPOSE FRANCHISE FEES, AND TO ESTABLISH RATES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS FOR FRANCHISES GRANTED UNDER THIS SECTION.

SECTION -2-- 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland read(s) as follows: