

(1) It is in the public interest of the State that the counties, municipalities, and Baltimore City regulate cable television franchises in order to make available to their citizens adequate and efficient cable television services at reasonable rates.

(2) It has been and shall continue to be the policy of this State to authorize the counties, municipalities, and Baltimore City to supplant competition by granting 1 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 1 or more multiple unit dwellings under common ownership, control, or management.

~~SECTION--1.---BE--IT--ENACTED--BY--THE--GENERAL--ASSEMBLY--OF--MARYLAND~~ SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, 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--}~~