



SENATE BILL No. 131

January 13, 1993, Introduced by Senator DI NELLO and referred to the Committee on Technology and Energy.

A bill to limit the number of years for cable television exclusive franchises; to provide for exceptions; and to prescribe penalties.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. As used in this act:

2 (a) "Cable television" means the transmission system that
3 distributes broadcast television signals or other services by
4 means of direct wire to subscriber homes from a common antenna.
5 Cable television includes 1-way and 2-way video programming.

6 (b) "Exclusive franchise" means an agreement between a pro-
7 vider of cable television and a local unit of government or any
8 other franchise granting authority by which the provider is given
9 the exclusive right to offer cable television service to
10 subscribers within the geographical area of the franchise
11 granting authority.

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1 Sec. 2. (1) Except as provided by subsection (3) or as
2 otherwise provided by law, beginning January 1, 1994, an exclu-
3 sive franchise shall not be granted to a cable television pro-
4 vider for a period greater than 3 years.

5 (2) Each exclusive franchise may be renewed at the option of
6 the franchise granting authority for a period not greater than 3
7 years.

8 (3) An exclusive franchise under this act may be granted for
9 periods greater than 3 years if the franchise agreement requires
10 the prior approval of the franchise granting authority before the
11 provider can increase the rates charged to the subscribers for
12 the cable television service.

13 Sec. 3. An exclusive franchise agreement that violates this
14 act is against public policy and is void and unenforceable by the
15 provider of the cable television service.