

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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SENATE BILL 1044*

Short Title: General Assembly/TV.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Seymour; Hyde, Smith, and Basnight.

Referred to: Rules and Operation of the Senate.

June 1, 1992

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR GAVEL-TO-GAVEL TELEVISION COVERAGE OF
2 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND FOR OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE
3 PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS OF THE STATE AS
4 RECOMMENDED BY THE OPEN GOVERNMENT THROUGH PUBLIC
5 TELECOMMUNICATIONS STUDY COMMISSION.
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7 Whereas, democracy requires as much direct contact between the People and
8 their elected government as is possible; and

9 Whereas, the People should be encouraged to interact with their elected
10 government wherever possible; and

11 Whereas, democracy requires its electorate to understand public issues and
12 the uses of tax funds appropriated for services to that electorate; and

13 Whereas, a need exists to encourage and facilitate contact and interaction
14 between the People and their elected government which can be accomplished in a
15 reasonable manner through the use of modern telecommunications; and

16 Whereas, the Agency for Public Telecommunications was created in 1979 for
17 the purpose of encouraging and facilitating communication between the People and
18 their government and, with continued support, can continue to accomplish and expand
19 this role; Now, therefore,

20 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

21 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
22 Administration, Agency for Public Telecommunications, the sum of two million four
23 hundred three thousand seven hundred dollars (\$2,403,700) for the fiscal year 1992-93
24 to be used to perform the necessary remodeling and to purchase the necessary

1 equipment to provide for the television coverage and transmission of the proceedings of
2 the General Assembly and its committees. Any remodeling performed under the
3 authority of this appropriation, and any equipment purchased under the authority of this
4 appropriation, shall be with the advice and consent of the Legislative Services
5 Commission.

6 Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
7 Administration, Agency for Public Telecommunications, the sum of three hundred
8 fourteen thousand one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$314,175) for the fiscal year 1992-
9 93 to be used to provide matching funds for available funds from the United States
10 Government for Ku-Band retrofitting, for purchase and installation of second channel
11 equipment, for construction necessary to accomplish the objectives set out above in this
12 section, and for the purchase and installation of 100 satellite receiving dishes to be
13 located at public libraries accessible to all 100 counties of the State. If more than one
14 library facility exists in a county, the Agency for Public Telecommunications will
15 determine, in consultation with the State Librarian, which facility is most accessible and
16 appropriate to receive the satellite equipment.

17 Sec. 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
18 Administration, Agency for Public Telecommunications, the sum of five hundred four
19 thousand seven hundred ninety-four dollars (\$504,794) for the fiscal year 1992-93 for
20 the funding of an operating expansion reserve to be used as provided in the report of the
21 Commission on Open Government Through Public Telecommunications to the 1991
22 General Assembly, 1992 Regular Session.

23 Sec. 4. Within the limits set by the appropriations, the Agency for Public
24 Telecommunications is authorized to take advantage of new and developing
25 technologies by purchasing, installing, or acquiring facilities that will promote the most
26 cost-effective production, distribution, and reception of satellite television coverage that
27 will meet acceptable standards.

28 Sec. 5. None of the appropriations contained in this act shall revert at the end
29 of the fiscal year, but shall remain available for use as appropriated in this act.

30 Sec. 6. This act is effective July 1, 1992.