

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 113

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 23, 2010

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 113.

The resolution establishes the “Legislative Task Force on Public Broadcasting” (“task force”) which is to consist of the following ten members: 1) three members appointed by the Senate President who shall be members of the Senate; 2) two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate who shall be members of the Senate; 3) three members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly who shall be members of the General Assembly; and 4) two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly who shall be members of the General Assembly.

The purpose of the task force shall be to study and evaluate, and develop recommendations relating to, the Governor’s proposal to transfer the assets, including operating licenses, and operations of the New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority (“authority”), the operator of New Jersey Network (“network”), to an independent, not-for-profit organization (“organization”). The task force shall consider issues and concerns relating to such proposal, including, but not limited to, the following: 1) the valuation of the assets of the authority, including hardware, licenses, real estate, and other property, and whether assets should be transferred to an organization without payment of monetary consideration therefor; 2) the most appropriate schedule for the transfer of the authority’s operating licenses and allocation of assets, taking into account the approval process of the Federal Communications Commission and any other pertinent federal agency; 3) whether the operations of the authority and the network function in the most efficient and cost effective manner; 4) the manner in which other states have transferred such assets and operations to an organization; 5) the future financing needs of the organization and the impact of any financing requirements on the annual State budget; 6) the continuation of New Jersey-focused programming if such proposal were to be approved; 7) the impact of the implementation of the proposal on the current employees of the authority; 8) whether advances in broadcasting technology and their implications for the network and public broadcasting have been considered; 9) the development of new partnerships with the private sector and with other public sector interests; and 10) whether alternative organizational or

governance structures have been considered, including a single public or for-profit organization that is not a current licensee of a radio or television broadcasting station.

The task force is to issue a report of its study and findings to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the General Assembly by October 15, 2010, including recommendations for any proposed transfer of the authority's operations and assets to an independent, not-for-profit organization prior to the beginning of State fiscal year 2012.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This resolution is not certified for a fiscal note.