

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5825

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 12, 2019

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5825.

This bill prohibits cable television (CATV), direct broadcast satellite, and television streaming service companies from advertising prices for television service to a consumer in this State unless the advertised price is the total billable amount that the company will charge to a consumer for the provision of television service based on the minimum equipment necessary per television set to receive and operate the television service that is being advertised. A price advertised to a consumer is to include, but not be limited to, any broadcast programming fee, administrative and service fee, and television equipment fee per television set, including set-top box and remote rental fee, if applicable. The bill does not prohibit CATV, direct broadcast satellite, or television streaming service companies from including in advertised prices for television service to a consumer in this State any tax, fee, or other charge that, pursuant to federal or State law, the company is required to charge to a consumer and, pursuant to federal law, a company may itemize on a bill for television service.

The bill provides that a violation of section 2 of the bill is to be an unlawful practice and violation of the New Jersey consumer fraud act. An unlawful act under the consumer fraud act is punishable by a monetary penalty of not more than \$10,000 for the first offense and not more than \$20,000 for any subsequent offense, in addition to other penalties.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.