

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 132

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 9, 1996

By Assemblymen GEIST and COLLINS

1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION urging the Federal Communications Commission
2 to refrain from assigning Channel 21 to commercial broadcasters in the
3 Southern New Jersey, Philadelphia Region.

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5 WHEREAS, There is a proposal currently pending before the Federal
6 Communications Commission (hereinafter the "FCC") to assign the
7 Channel 21 bandwidth to a commercial television broadcast station for use
8 in the Southern New Jersey, Philadelphia Region; and

9 WHEREAS, The assignment of the Channel 21 bandwidth to commercial
10 broadcasters creates a substantial risk of interference with Channel 20 land
11 mobile services that operate within a fifty-mile radius of such proposed
12 commercial broadcast station; and

13 WHEREAS, There are currently over 600 land mobile licensees in the region,
14 including numerous Gloucester County agencies responsible for
15 communications, emergency management, fire, sheriff and special
16 transportation services that utilize the Channel 20 bandwidth in
17 conformance with FCC regulations; and

18 WHEREAS, In addition to the many county land mobile services, numerous
19 municipal public safety agencies in the region, including 53 fire companies,
20 27 ambulance squads and 23 municipal police departments also rely on
21 Channel 20 for their operations; and

22 WHEREAS, It has also been proposed that other frequencies including 54 to
23 72, 76 to 88 and 698 to 806 MHz be assigned to land mobile services in
24 order to provide alternative channels that would not be subject to
25 interference from a Channel 21 commercial broadcasting station in the
26 region; and

27 WHEREAS, Most of the equipment currently used by county and municipal
28 land mobile services cannot be converted for use on these alternative
29 channels, thereby potentially necessitating the expenditure of considerable
30 sums of money for replacement equipment in order for the county and
31 municipal land mobile services to operate on the alternative channels; now,
32 therefore,

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34 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

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1 1. This House strongly urges the FCC to refrain from assigning Channel
2 21 to a commercial television broadcast station in the Southern New Jersey,
3 Philadelphia Region because of the devastating impact that such a station
4 would have on the operations of county and municipal land mobile services
5 assigned to Channel 20 and on the entire public safety community in the
6 region.

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8 2. This House calls upon the FCC to reject any proposal to designate
9 alternative frequencies such as 54 to 72, 76 to 88 and 698 to 806 MHz for
10 land mobile communication in place of Channel 20 due to the potential high
11 cost of purchasing replacement equipment that would be needed by the land
12 mobile services to operate on the alternative frequencies.

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14 3. A duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of
15 the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted
16 to the Chairman and the Commissioners of the FCC, to United States Senator
17 Frank Lautenberg and United States Senator-elect Robert Torricelli, and
18 every member of the House of Representatives elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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23 This resolution strongly urges the Federal Communications Commission
24 (hereinafter the "FCC") to refrain from assigning Channel 21 to commercial
25 television broadcasters in the Southern New Jersey, Philadelphia Region
26 because of the detrimental impact on land mobile emergency communication
27 services currently assigned to operate on Channel 20 in that region.

28 The resolution also calls upon the FCC to reject a proposal to assign other
29 frequencies to land mobile services in the region as an alternative to Channel
30 20 due to the potential high cost of purchasing replacement equipment for the
31 many county and municipal agencies that are unable to convert their current
32 communications equipment for use on the alternative frequencies.

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37 Urges FCC to refrain from assigning Channel 21 to commercial broadcasters
38 in Southern New Jersey, Philadelphia Region.