

**ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 79**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED MARCH 28, 1996

**By Assemblymen WISNIEWSKI and DORIA**

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** establishing an Assembly Special Study  
2 Committee on the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

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4 **WHEREAS**, The "Telecommunications Act of 1996" was recently passed by  
5 Congress, and was signed into law on February 8, 1996; and

6 **WHEREAS**, The "Telecommunications Act of 1996" was enacted with the goal  
7 of promoting competition and reducing regulation in order to secure lower  
8 prices and higher quality services for American telecommunications  
9 consumers, and of encouraging the rapid deployment of new  
10 telecommunications technologies; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The act will have revolutionary effects on the nation's  
12 telecommunications system, particularly in those States such as New Jersey  
13 which have sophisticated telecommunications and information services  
14 networks and large corporations which deal with telecommunications and  
15 information services matters; and

16 **WHEREAS**, The act, by deregulating telecommunications and encouraging the  
17 rapid deployment of new technologies, will have far-reaching effects on the  
18 consumers of telecommunications and information services; and

19 **WHEREAS**, It is incumbent on the Legislature to become better informed about  
20 the requirements of the "Telecommunications Act of 1996," to consider its  
21 implications for New Jersey and to study the possible areas in which State  
22 action or regulation will or could be called for; now, therefore,

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

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26 1. There is hereby established the Assembly Special Study Committee on  
27 the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. The committee shall consist of  
28 five members of the General Assembly, with three members of the committee  
29 to be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and two members  
30 to be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly upon  
31 recommendation of the Minority Leader of the General Assembly. The  
32 committee may appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the  
33 committee. The Speaker shall designate one of the members to serve as  
34 chairman.

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1       2. It shall be the duty of the committee to study the telecommunications  
2 issues raised by the "Telecommunications Act of 1996," to consider the  
3 implications of this act for the State of New Jersey and to study the possible  
4 areas in which State action or regulation will or could be called for. The  
5 primary function of the committee shall be to serve as a resource for informing  
6 and educating the Legislature as to the subject matter within the scope of the  
7 committee's study. The committee is authorized to cooperate and work  
8 together with the Senate Special Committee on the Federal  
9 Telecommunications Act of 1996, established by Senate Resolution No. 5 of  
10 1996.

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12       3. a. The committee may meet and hold hearings at the places it  
13 designates during the sessions or recesses of the Legislature, and shall be  
14 entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of officials and  
15 employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau,  
16 commission, or agency as it may require.

17       b. The committee shall further be entitled to employ stenographic and  
18 clerical assistance and incur traveling and other miscellaneous expenses as it  
19 may deem necessary in order to perform its duties, within the limits of funds  
20 appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purposes.

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22       4. The committee shall report its findings in a report to the Speaker of the  
23 General Assembly as soon as practicable upon completion of its work.

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#### STATEMENT

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28       This Assembly resolution establishes the Assembly Special Study  
29 Committee on the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. The committee  
30 is to consist of five members of the General Assembly, three of whom are to  
31 be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and two of whom are  
32 to be appointed by the Speaker upon recommendation of the Minority Leader  
33 of the Assembly.

34       It is the duty of the committee to study the telecommunications issues raised  
35 by the "Telecommunications Act of 1996," recently passed by Congress and  
36 signed into law, to consider the implications of that act for the State of New  
37 Jersey and to study possible areas in which State action or regulation will or  
38 could be called for. The primary function of the committee will be to serve as  
39 a resource for informing and educating the Legislature on telecommunications  
40 issues. The resolution does not provide for the committee to make any  
41 recommendations concerning possible legislation. Since this proposed  
42 committee is parallel to the Senate Special Study Committee on the Federal  
43 Telecommunications Act of 1996, established by Senate Resolution No. 5 of

1 1996, this committee is authorized to cooperate and work together with the  
2 Senate committee.

3 The committee is to report its findings to the Speaker of the General  
4 Assembly as soon as practicable upon completion of its work.

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9 Creates Assembly Special Study Committee on the Federal  
10 Telecommunications Act of 1996.