

[First Reprint]  
SENATE RESOLUTION No. 28

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 14, 1996

By Senator INVERSO

1   **A SENATE RESOLUTION** encouraging the New Jersey Congressional  
2       Delegation to support federal legislation providing for greater local  
3       television coverage for the State of New Jersey.  
4  
5   **WHEREAS**, The residents of New Jersey have a strong desire to receive  
6       television coverage of local news and information ~~of~~ concerning their  
7       immediate community; and  
8   **WHEREAS**, The small number of full power television stations allocated to the  
9       State of New Jersey is inadequate to meet the television coverage needs  
10      of the State; and  
11   **WHEREAS**, There are ~~five~~ <sup>seven</sup> licensed Low Power Television (LPTV)  
12       stations ~~and three New Jersey Network (NJN) Low Power Television~~  
13       ~~repeaters~~ on the air, which cover local news and community information,  
14       and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has authorized the  
15       construction of 16 ~~additional~~ more independent LPTV stations ~~and~~  
16       three construction permits for NJN, in the State of New Jersey; and  
17   **WHEREAS**, LPTV stations do not have the right, enjoyed by full power  
18       stations, to be carried on the local cable systems within New Jersey  
19       because of a provision in the Cable Television Consumer Protection and  
20       Competition Act of 1992, which limits "Must Carry" ~~rights~~  
21       stations outside the largest 160 Metropolitan Statistical Areas and  
22       communities of license with populations less than 35,000; and  
23   **WHEREAS**, The cable operators of New Jersey have been very reluctant to  
24       carry LPTV stations unless legally compelled to do so, even when LPTV  
25       stations are broadcasting local news and community information; and  
26   **WHEREAS**, This provision in the federal law and the conduct of cable systems  
27       severely hamper the ability of LPTV stations to provide local news and  
28       community information desired by residents of New Jersey; and  
29   **WHEREAS**, The FCC is planning the transition of television broadcasting from

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is  
not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.  
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:  
<sup>1</sup> Senate STR committee amendments adopted May 9, 1996.

1 analog to digital but has not provided for the same transition for LPTV  
2 stations, and the FCC's failure to preserve LPTV service during and after  
3 the transition to digital broadcasting threatens the future of the local news  
4 and community information provided by those stations to the State of New  
5 Jersey; and

6 **WHEREAS,** It is altogether fitting and proper for this House to urge the New  
7 Jersey Congressional Delegation to introduce and support legislation to  
8 grant "Must Carry" rights for LPTV stations for the regions they serve  
9 within the State of New Jersey when those stations broadcast local news  
10 and community information on a regular basis and to ensure the  
11 preservation of LPTV service during and after the transition from analog to  
12 digital television, as such legislation will greatly benefit the citizens of the  
13 State of New Jersey; now, therefore,

14  
15 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

16  
17 1. The New Jersey Congressional Delegation is urged to introduce and  
18 support legislation to grant "Must Carry" rights for Low Power Television  
19 stations for the regions they serve within the State of New Jersey when those  
20 stations broadcast local news and community information on a regular basis  
21 and to ensure the preservation of Low Power Television service during and  
22 after the transition from analog to digital television.

23  
24 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of  
25 the Senate and attested by the Secretary thereof, shall be transmitted to each  
26 member of Congress elected thereto from this State.

27  
28  
29 \_\_\_\_\_  
30  
31 Urges NJ Congressional Delegation to support federal legislation providing for  
32 greater local television coverage.