

## SENATE RESOLUTION No. 94

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 22, 1997

By Senator CARDINALE

1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the Federal Communications Commission to  
2 develop a bidding process for broadcast license award and renewal.

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4 **WHEREAS,** The Communications Act of 1934 authorized the federal  
5 government to issue licenses for the use of free broadcast spectrum and in  
6 return for the use of the broadcast spectrum, broadcasters have committed  
7 themselves to operate in the public interest by airing public service  
8 announcements, reporting on news, weather and sports, offering  
9 emergency information, and providing other services at no cost to the  
10 viewer; and

11 **WHEREAS,** American broadcast television captivates millions of Americans for  
12 hours each day and provides a variety of services to people of all ages and  
13 all walks of life, with many people relying on television as their sole source  
14 of news and entertainment; and

15 **WHEREAS,** The Federal Communications Commission (hereinafter, the  
16 "FCC") is moving towards implementation of digital television technology  
17 which requires licensed stations and networks to convert from analogue to  
18 digital technology; and

19 **WHEREAS,** While the FCC is considering a proposal to auction off airwaves  
20 designated for high definition television, it is appropriate and in the public  
21 interest to provide for an ongoing, competitive marketplace for licenses for  
22 the whole broadcast spectrum, including both analogue and digital  
23 technology; and

24 **WHEREAS,** An open, competitive marketplace can be achieved more quickly  
25 by providing that all broadcast licenses be valid for only five years, rather  
26 than the current 15 years, to allow bidding more frequently; and

27 **WHEREAS,** It is also appropriate and in the public interest that this House urge  
28 the FCC to encourage a competitive marketplace for broadcast licenses  
29 for the whole broadcast spectrum and to make those licenses valid for only  
30 five years in order to achieve an ongoing, competitive marketplace; now,  
31 therefore,

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

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35 1. This House urges the Federal Communications Commission to

1 develop a bidding process for broadcast license award and renewal that  
2 would encourage a competitive marketplace for broadcast licenses for the  
3 whole broadcast spectrum and to make those licenses valid for only five years  
4 in order to achieve an ongoing, competitive marketplace.

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6 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President  
7 of the Senate and attested to by the Secretary thereof, shall be transmitted to  
8 the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission and each member  
9 of Congress elected thereto from New Jersey.

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12 STATEMENT

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14 This resolution urges the Federal Communications Commission to to  
15 develop a bidding process for broadcast license award and renewal for the  
16 whole broadcast spectrum, including analogue and digital technology. The  
17 establishment of such a bidding process would provide for an ongoing,  
18 competitive marketplace for licenses for the whole broadcast spectrum. The  
19 resolution further recommends that broadcast licenses be valid for only five  
20 years, rather than the current 15 years, in order to achieve an ongoing,  
21 competitive marketplace.

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26 Urges FCC to develop bidding process for broadcast license award and  
27 renewal.