

By Senator Sobel

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the public broadcasting program
3 system; amending s. 1001.26, F.S.; including certain
4 educational television stations licensed by the
5 Federal Communications Commission for which support
6 and funding may be given; providing an effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and paragraph
11 (c) of subsection (2) of section 1001.26, Florida Statutes, are
12 amended to read:

13 1001.26 Public broadcasting program system.—

14 (1) There is created a public broadcasting program system
15 for the state. The department shall administer this program
16 system pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of
17 Education. This program system must complement and share
18 resources with the instructional programming service of the
19 Department of Education and educational UHF, VHF, ITFS, and FM
20 stations in the state. The program system must include:

21 (a) Support for existing Corporation for Public
22 Broadcasting qualified program system educational radio and
23 television stations, ~~and~~ and new stations meeting Corporation for
24 Public Broadcasting qualifications and providing a first service
25 to an audience that does not currently receive a broadcast
26 signal or providing a significant new program service as defined
27 by rule by the State Board of Education, and nondenominational
28 television stations licensed as of July 1, 2012, by the Federal
29 Communications Commission as full-power educational broadcast

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30 stations.

31 (2)

32 (c) The department is authorized to provide equipment,
33 funds, and other services to extend and update both the existing
34 and the proposed educational television and radio systems of
35 tax-supported and nonprofit, corporate-owned facilities. All
36 stations funded must be qualified by the Corporation for Public
37 Broadcasting or be nondenominational television stations
38 licensed as of July 1, 2012, by the Federal Communications
39 Commission as full-power educational broadcast stations. New
40 stations eligible for funding shall provide a first service to
41 an audience that is not currently receiving a broadcast signal
42 or provide a significant new program service as defined by State
43 Board of Education rules. Funds appropriated to the department
44 for educational television and funds appropriated to the
45 department for educational radio may be used by the department
46 for either educational television or educational radio, or for
47 both.

48 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.