

By Senator Ring

29-00466-13

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the public broadcasting program  
3           system; amending ss. 1001.25 and 1001.26, F.S.;  
4           authorizing the Department of Education to provide  
5           equipment, funds, and other support for certain  
6           television stations owned and operated by a district  
7           school board and licensed by the Federal  
8           Communications Commission; providing an effective  
9           date.

10  
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12  
13           Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
14           1001.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15           1001.25 Educational television.—

16           (2) POWERS OF DEPARTMENT.—

17           (c)1. The department may provide equipment, funds, and  
18           other services to extend and update both the existing and the  
19           proposed educational television systems of tax-supported and  
20           nonprofit, corporate-owned facilities. All stations funded must  
21           be qualified by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. New  
22           stations eligible for funding shall provide a first service to  
23           an audience that is not currently receiving a broadcast signal  
24           or provide a significant new program service as defined by State  
25           Board of Education rules. Funds appropriated to the department  
26           for educational television may be used by the department for  
27           educational television only.

28           2. The department may also provide equipment, funds, and  
29           other services to a television station that is owned and

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30 operated by a district school board and licensed as of January  
31 1, 2012, by the Federal Communications Commission as a full-  
32 power educational broadcast station. Funds provided to such a  
33 television station must be used for educational television  
34 programming and services, including curriculum-based  
35 instructional programming, citizen's participation programming,  
36 music and fine arts programs, coverage of public hearings and  
37 governmental meetings, and other public interest programming. A  
38 television station that provides programming that is  
39 specifically designed to further the principles of a particular  
40 religion may not be funded under this subparagraph.

41 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and paragraph  
42 (c) of subsection (2) of section 1001.26, Florida Statutes, are  
43 amended to read:

44 1001.26 Public broadcasting program system.—

45 (1) There is created a public broadcasting program system  
46 for the state. The department shall administer this program  
47 system pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of  
48 Education. This program system must complement and share  
49 resources with the instructional programming service of the  
50 Department of Education and educational UHF, VHF, EBS, and FM  
51 stations in the state. The program system must include:

52 (a) Support for existing Corporation for Public  
53 Broadcasting qualified program system educational television  
54 stations, ~~and~~ and new stations meeting Corporation for Public  
55 Broadcasting qualifications and providing a first service to an  
56 audience that does not currently receive a broadcast signal or  
57 providing a significant new program service as defined by rule  
58 by the State Board of Education, and television stations that

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59 are owned and operated by a district school board and licensed  
60 as of January 1, 2012, by the Federal Communications Commission  
61 as a full-power educational broadcast station.

62 (2)

63 (c)1. The department ~~may is authorized to~~ provide  
64 equipment, funds, and other services to extend and update both  
65 the existing and the proposed educational television systems of  
66 tax-supported and nonprofit, corporate-owned facilities. All  
67 stations funded must be qualified by the Corporation for Public  
68 Broadcasting. New stations eligible for funding shall provide a  
69 first service to an audience that is not currently receiving a  
70 broadcast signal or provide a significant new program service as  
71 defined by State Board of Education rules. Funds appropriated to  
72 the department for educational television may be used by the  
73 department for educational television only.

74 2. The department may also provide equipment, funds, and  
75 other services to a television station that is owned and  
76 operated by a district school board and licensed as of January  
77 1, 2012, by the Federal Communications Commission as a full-  
78 power educational broadcast station. Funds provided to such a  
79 television station must be used for educational television  
80 programming and services, including curriculum-based  
81 instructional programming, citizen's participation programming,  
82 music and fine arts programs, coverage of public hearings and  
83 governmental meetings, and other public interest programming. A  
84 television station that provides programming that is  
85 specifically designed to further the principles of a particular  
86 religion may not be funded under this subparagraph.

87 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.