

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

	Legislative Document NO. 1276
	H.P. 947 House of Representatives, April 15, 1987 Reference to the Committee on Utilities suggested and ordered printed.
	EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
	Presented by Representative BOTT of Orono. Cosponsored by Representatives HICHBORN of LaGrange, CROWLEY of Stockton Springs, and Senator CLARK of Cumberland.
	STATE OF MAINE
: '	IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN
1 2 3 4	AN ACT to Create a Public Service Cable Channel Connected with the University of Maine System.
5 6	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
7	30 MRSA §2159 is enacted to read:
8	§2159. Public service cable television
9	1. Policy; purpose. It is the policy of the
10 11	State to make public service television programming
12	available as widely as possible within the State. The purpose of this Act is to implement that policy
13	to the extent authorized by federal law, including
14	the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, United
15	States Code Title 47, Sections 521 to 559.

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2. Public service channel for use by the University of Maine System required. Any cable television system operating within the State shall make available one channel for public service use by the University of Maine System. This requirement is in addition to any other channels for public, educational or governmental use required by an appropriate authority. The operator of the system shall file an affidavit with the municipal officers in every municipality served, and with the Secretary of State, indicating the channel designated and the date of the agreement under subsection 3.

Use of public service channel; contract. The 13 3. University of Maine System shall have the primary use 14 of the public service channels provided under subsec-15 16 tion 2. The University of Maine System may authorize 17 the operator to make those channels available to any 18 agency of State Government or local government or to any other educational institution to the extent that 19 20 the University of Maine System determines that it does not need the time itself. The University of 21 22 Maine System shall establish and execute by January 23 1, 1989, a standard contractual agreement with each cable television operator within the State to carry out the purposes of this Act. That agreement shall 24 25 26 be incorporated by amendment or otherwise in the 27 franchise agreement of the cable television operator 28 with the municipality in which it operates.

29 <u>4. Relation to other law. The requirements of</u>
30 <u>this section are supplementary to those of section</u>
31 <u>2158, and in the case of conflict, the requirements</u>
32 <u>of this section shall prevail.</u>

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### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill requires that every operator of cable television in the State make available a channel for public service use, to the extent as authorized by federal law.

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