

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland in 1966 established a program of Educational Television, the major intent and thrust of which was for the purpose of providing instruction through this media in the classrooms of the elementary and secondary schools of the State.

In keeping with this intent, the law was codified as Section 161 of Article 77, the Article that deals exclusively with elementary and secondary education.

Local school systems throughout the State have invested considerable public funds in wiring and equipping their schools for the reception and utilization of instructional programs prepared and broadcast by the Division of Instructional Television of the State Department of Education.

The Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission sponsors two basic programs: (1) instructional educational television for which the State Board of Education has sole responsibility and control, and (2) programs for the general public for which the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission has full responsibility and control, subject to the provisions established for instructional television in the schools.

Notwithstanding that Section 161 of Article 77 specifically states that the State Board of Education shall have priority as to scheduling of television and radio programs during school hours, the administrative leadership of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission has relegated instructional television to a low priority in the total operations of the Commission and is further attempting to limit its scheduling to a total time less than intended and established in the law.

Such a scheduling limitation will restrict the utilization of instructional television programs in many elementary and secondary schools in the State, a program that has been guaranteed by both the intent and provisions of Section 161 of Article 77; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Legislative Council request the Joint Budget and Audit Committee to review the provisions of Section 161 of Article 77 of the Public School Laws (Public Broadcasting Commission) and the joint operations and relationships of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission with the Division of Instructional Television of the Maryland State Department of Education, with respect to, but not limited to, such problems as areas of responsibility, production responsibilities, scheduling responsibilities, budgeting, staffing, and utilization of personnel; and that the Joint Budget and Audit Committee be requested to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Council, for transmittal to the General Assembly, by October 1, 1973; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the members of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission and the Maryland State Board of Education and to the Secretary of the Legislative Council.

Approved May 21, 1973.
