

Governor's Budget Recommendation Conforming Bill
Public Broadcasting

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to public broadcasting; amending s.
3 1001.26, F.S., providing a primary purpose; amending
4 restrictions on uses; providing an effective date.
5

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
7

8 Section 1. Section 1001.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to
9 read:

10 1001.26 Public broadcasting program system.-

11 (1) There is created a public broadcasting program system
12 for the state. The department shall provide funds, as
13 specifically appropriated in the General Appropriations Act, to
14 educational television stations qualified by the Corporation for
15 Public Broadcasting or public colleges and universities that are
16 part of the public broadcasting program system. The program
17 system must include:

18 (a) Support for existing Corporation for Public
19 Broadcasting qualified program system educational television
20 stations.

21 (b) Maintenance of quality broadcast capability for
22 educational stations that are part of the program system.

23 (c) Interconnection of all educational stations that are
24 part of the program system for simultaneous broadcast and of
25 such stations with all universities and other institutions as
26 necessary for sharing of resources and delivery of programming.

27 (d) Establishment and maintenance of a capability for
28 statewide program distribution with facilities and staff,

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29 provided such facilities and staff complement and strengthen
30 existing educational television stations.

31 (e) Provision of both statewide programming funds and
32 station programming support for educational television to meet
33 statewide priorities. Priorities for station programming need
34 not be the same as priorities for programming to be used
35 statewide. Station programming may include, but shall not be
36 limited to, citizens' participation programs, music and fine
37 arts programs, coverage of public hearings and governmental
38 meetings, equal air time for political candidates, and other
39 public interest programming.

40 (2) (a) The public broadcasting program system, shall use
41 its employees and resources for the main purpose of broadcasting
42 the actions and business of state or local government;

43 (b) As much as feasibly possible, the public broadcasting
44 program system shall cover all formal proceedings of state
45 government, including meetings of the Florida Legislature and
46 its committees, meetings of the Florida Supreme Court, public
47 meetings of boards that develop rules and regulations dictating
48 policies in Florida, media briefings held by state elected
49 officials, leadership of the Florida legislature and
50 secretaries/executive directors of Florida's executive and
51 cabinet agencies.

52 (3) (2) The Department of Education may employ personnel,
53 acquire equipment and facilities, and perform all duties
54 necessary for carrying out the purposes and objectives of this
55 section.

56 ~~(3) (a) The facilities, plant, or personnel of an~~
57 ~~educational television station that is supported in whole or in~~

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58 ~~part by state funds may not be used directly or indirectly for~~
59 ~~the promotion, advertisement, or advancement of a political~~
60 ~~candidate for a municipal, county, legislative, congressional,~~
61 ~~or state office. However, fair, open, and free discussion~~
62 ~~between political candidates for municipal, county, legislative,~~
63 ~~congressional, or state office may be permitted in order to help~~
64 ~~materially reduce the excessive cost of campaigns and to ensure~~
65 ~~that the state's citizens are fully informed about issues and~~
66 ~~candidates in campaigns. This paragraph applies to the advocacy~~
67 ~~for, or opposition to, a specific existing or proposed program~~
68 ~~of governmental action, which includes, but is not limited to,~~
69 ~~constitutional amendments, tax referenda, and bond issues.~~

70 (4) This ~~paragraph~~ section shall be implemented in
71 accordance with rules of the State Board of Education.

72 ~~(b) A violation of a prohibition contained in this~~
73 ~~subsection is a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as~~
74 ~~provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.~~

75 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.