

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: March 19, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Condominium Owners/Cable TV Service

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	Rodriguez	Guthrie	RI	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The bill exempts condominium unit owners who receive supplemental security income (SSI) or food stamps from expenses relating to a master antenna television system or franchised cable television service obtained pursuant to a bulk contract.

This bill substantially amends the following section of the Florida Statutes: 718.115.

II. Present Situation:

Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of s. 718.115, F.S., provides that the cost of a master antenna television system or cable television service obtained pursuant to a bulk contract is a common expense, if provided for in a condominium association's declaration or if designated as such in a written contract between the board of administration and the company providing the system or service. The bulk contract must be for a term of no less than 2 years but may be canceled by a majority of the voting interests at the next regular or special meeting of the association.

Section 718.115, F.S. requires the bulk contract for television services to exempt a unit owner who wishes to discontinue such services if the unit owner is hearing impaired or legally blind and does not occupy the unit with a nonhearing impaired or sighted person. The exempted unit owner cannot incur any disconnection fees, penalties, or subsequent service charge and is not required to pay common expenses for such service. The other unit owners in the association share the common expense of television services equally.

Eligibility for food stamps and supplemental security income is determined by federal guidelines. The Department of Children and Family Services administers the distribution of food stamps pursuant to s. 414.31, F.S.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. The bill provides that a unit owner who receives supplemental security income or food stamps may choose to discontinue the service of an antenna system or cable television without incurring any disconnection fees, penalties or subsequent service charges. The unit owner is also exempt from paying any common expenses related to such service.

Section 2. The bill provides an effective date of October 1, of the year in which the bill is enacted.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

This bill may increase the share of common expenses paid by unit owners who receive cable television services as a result of a bulk contract between their condominium association and the service provider and who do not qualify for the exemption.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The bill provides adequate and appropriate standards and guidelines to direct the agency's implementation of the proposed legislation.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
