

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AT THE STATE LEVEL TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR PEG/COMMUNITY MEDIA October 1, 2025

Here is a partial list of the ongoing state-level activities to fund PEG access and community media:

Support from the General Fund

Vermont has provided funding to support community media centers through its state budget process. Advocates in Vermont are also pursuing a general fund-based approach in combination with a streaming tax.

Taxes on Streaming Video

In 2015, the **City of Chicago** applied an existing entertainment tax (9% at the time) to users of streaming entertainment services. This tax was previously imposed on tickets for concerts and other “physical” forms of entertainment.

In **New York**, the “TEAM NY Act” is in its final draft stages. The goal is to introduce the bill in the coming weeks. The legislation calls for a 5% assessment on streaming video service providers, with 40% of the revenue going to community media organizations, and the remaining portions allocated to the State, municipalities, and other coalition partners, including the arts, journalism, and education.

In **Minnesota**, the legislature operates on a biennial basis, so the bills introduced in 2024 will remain alive for the 2026 session. Below are the bills.

Equal Access to Broadband Act

- HF 4182/SF 4262 (2024) – Broadband Franchising Bill
- HF 974 (2025)

PEG Funding Fee - Streaming Bill

- HF 4186/SF 3930 (2024) –
- 5% Fee on Streaming Services

Local Digital Media Tax

- SF 3039/HF 3261 (2023-24)
- 1% tax on Digital Products to support local digital media

Legacy Funding

- HF 1740 (2025) would appropriate funding from the arts and cultural heritage fund to support access television.

Fees on Streaming Video Tied to Use of Public Rights of Way

Maine has passed a law that extends the state’s franchise fee to any video service provider, including any entity that directly, or through an affiliate, both (1) sells access to video, audio, or computer-generated entertainment, and (2) *owns or operates* facilities located in the public rights-of-way to provide those services.

In **Massachusetts**, a bill has been introduced that would authorize a newly established PEG Access Facilities Revenue Advisory Board to recommend an assessment (set at levels determined by the Board

to maintain PEG funding) on streaming entertainment services, which are defined as services provided via digital infrastructure and delivered, at least in part, over facilities located in the public rights-of-way. The facilities in the public rights-of-way would not need to be owned or operated by the streaming entertainment services that rely on those facilities, at least in part, to deliver their services.

The Senate bill received a favorable recommendation in its Joint Committee assignment, with some minor changes, and is now before the Senate Ways & Means Committee as S.2556. The House companion bill is still before its Joint Committee, and a decision is expected in October 2025.