

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4322

To update the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act
of 2010.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 16 (legislative day, APRIL 14), 2026

Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation

A BILL

To update the 21st Century Communications and Video
Accessibility Act of 2010.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Communications, Video, and Technology Accessibility
6 Act of 2026”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—CLOSED CAPTIONING AND AUDIO DESCRIPTION

- Sec. 101. Definitions.
- Sec. 102. Closed captioning.
- Sec. 103. Audio description.
- Sec. 104. Technical and conforming amendments relating to economic burden.
- Sec. 105. Sign language in video programming.
- Sec. 106. Closed Captioning, Audio Description, and Sign Language Advisory Committee.
- Sec. 107. Inquiries and reports to Congress.

TITLE II—VIDEO PLAYBACK APPARATUSES

- Sec. 201. Video playback apparatuses.

TITLE III—COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

- Sec. 301. Video conferencing.
- Sec. 302. Relay services.
- Sec. 303. National DeafBlind equipment distribution program.

TITLE IV—CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Sec. 401. Usability of advanced communication and video programming services.

TITLE V—EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 501. Emerging technology.

TITLE VI—ENFORCEMENT AND REPORTING

- Sec. 601. Accessibility enforcement.
- Sec. 602. Accessibility complaint reporting.

1 **TITLE I—CLOSED CAPTIONING** 2 **AND AUDIO DESCRIPTION**

3 **SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.**

4 (a) VIDEO PROGRAMMING ACCESSIBILITY DEFINI-
5 TIONS.—Section 713 of the Communications Act of 1934
6 (47 U.S.C. 613) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
8 section (a);

9 (2) by moving subsection (a), as so redesign-
10 nated, so that it appears immediately before sub-
11 section (b); and

1 (3) in subsection (a), as so redesignated—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) by striking “television program’s
4 key visual elements” and inserting “the
5 key visual elements of a video program or
6 consumer generated media”; and

7 (ii) by striking “the program’s dia-
8 logue” and inserting “the dialogue of the
9 program or media”;

10 (B) by striking paragraph (2); and

11 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
12 following:

13 “(2) LIVE PROGRAMMING.—The term ‘live pro-
14 gramming’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
15 tion 79.1 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations,
16 or any successor regulation.

17 “(3) NEAR-LIVE PROGRAMMING.—The term
18 ‘near-live programming’ has the meaning given the
19 term in section 79.1 of title 47, Code of Federal
20 Regulations, or any successor regulation.

21 “(4) ONLINE VIDEO PROGRAMMING.—The term
22 ‘online video programming’ means video program-
23 ming delivered using internet protocol or any suc-
24 cessor protocol.

1 “(5) PRERECORDED PROGRAMMING.—The term
2 ‘prerecorded programming’ has the meaning given
3 the term in section 79.1 of title 47, Code of Federal
4 Regulations, or any successor regulation.

5 “(6) VIDEO PROGRAMMING.—The term ‘video
6 programming’—

7 “(A) means programming by, or generally
8 considered comparable to programming pro-
9 vided by, a television broadcast station or non-
10 broadcast network, including programming de-
11 livered using internet protocol or any successor
12 protocol;

13 “(B) includes—

14 “(i) programming provided on de-
15 mand at the request of a viewer; and

16 “(ii) programming streamed live or at
17 a prescribed time or times to all or a sub-
18 set of viewers; and

19 “(C) does not include consumer generated
20 media.”.

21 (b) DISABILITY.—In this Act, the term “disability”
22 has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Ameri-
23 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

1 **SEC. 102. CLOSED CAPTIONING.**

2 Section 713 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
3 U.S.C. 613) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (g)
5 as subsections (e) through (h), respectively;

6 (2) in subsection (c)—

7 (A) in the heading, by striking “DEAD-
8 LINES” and inserting “REQUIREMENTS”;

9 (B) in paragraph (1), in the heading, by
10 striking “IN GENERAL” and inserting “DEAD-
11 LINES FOR TELEVISION PROGRAMMING CAP-
12 TIONS”; and

13 (C) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and
14 inserting the following:

15 “(2) CLOSED CAPTIONING REGULATIONS FOR
16 ONLINE VIDEO PROGRAMMING AND CONSUMER GEN-
17 ERATED MEDIA.—

18 “(A) CLOSED CAPTIONING REGULATIONS
19 FOR NEW ONLINE VIDEO PROGRAMMING.—Not
20 later than 12 months after the date of submis-
21 sion of the recommendations to the Commission
22 under section 106(d)(1) of the Communications,
23 Video, and Technology Accessibility Act of
24 2026, the Commission shall revise its regula-
25 tions, taking into account those recommenda-
26 tions, to require all online video programming

that is first made available on or after the effective date of the revised regulations to be fully accessible through the provision, receipt, and display of closed captioning, except as provided in subsection (e).

“(B) SCHEDULE.—The regulations revised under subparagraph (A) shall include an appropriate schedule of deadlines, the earliest of which shall be not less than 2 years after the effective date of the revised regulations and the latest of which shall be not more than 6 years after that effective date, for the provision, receipt, and display of closed captioning on online video programming that is first made available on or after the effective date of the revised regulations.

“(C) REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATIONS.—The regulations revised under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) shall ensure that English-language and Spanish-language online video programming that is first made available on or after the effective date of the revised regulations is fully accessible through the provision, receipt, and display of closed

1 captions in the original language of the
2 audio track of the programming;

3 “(ii) shall define the categories of en-
4 tities involved in the delivery of online
5 video programming and apportion the re-
6 sponsibilities for the provision, quality,
7 pass-through, and rendering of closed cap-
8 tions among such entities to ensure that
9 closed caption data—

10 “(I) remains with the video pro-
11 gramming to which the data is added;
12 and

13 “(II) is distributed in common
14 formats so that closed captions can be
15 exhibited intact by all other entities
16 that subsequently make the program-
17 ming available to viewers;

18 “(iii) may not distinguish between
19 full-length programming and video clips;
20 and

21 “(iv) for the purposes of determining
22 closed captioning obligations under this
23 section and assessing compliance with reg-
24 ulations of the Commission governing the
25 quality of closed captioning, including

under section 79.1 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, shall treat any video programming that was live programming or near-live programming at the time that it was initially made available to viewers as prerecorded programming if it is again made available to viewers more than 48 hours after its initial availability.

“(D) CLOSED CAPTIONING REGULATIONS FOR OLDER ONLINE VIDEO PROGRAMMING AND ON CONSUMER GENERATED MEDIA.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after the date of submission of the recommendations to the Commission under section 106(d)(1) of the Communications, Video, and Technology Accessibility Act of 2026, the Commission shall prescribe regulations, taking into account those recommendations, to maximize, through the provision, receipt, and performance of closed captioning, the accessibility of—

“(I) online video programming that was first made available before the effective date of the revised regu-

1 lations under subparagraph (A) of
2 this paragraph; and

3 “(II) consumer generated media.

4 “(ii) REQUIREMENT FOR CONSUMER
5 GENERATED MEDIA.—In prescribing regu-
6 lations for consumer generated media
7 under clause (i)(II), the Commission shall
8 require that an entity engaged in making
9 available consumer generated media,
10 whether or not the entity is also engaged
11 in making available video that is not con-
12 sumer generated media, provides—

13 “(I) authoring tools that permit
14 users who post videos on the entity’s
15 platform to add closed captions;

16 “(II) timely and effective notice,
17 at or before the time of upload, to
18 users who post videos on the entity’s
19 platform that such authoring tools are
20 available for videos; and

21 “(III) guidance on how to use
22 such authoring tools.

23 “(E) RELATION TO PREVIOUS REQUIRE-
24 MENTS.—The regulations revised or prescribed
25 under subparagraphs (A) and (D) may not im-

1 pair or preclude the applicability of, compliance
2 with, or the enforcement of the requirements
3 under this section or the regulations prescribed
4 thereunder that were in effect on the day before
5 the date of enactment of the Communications,
6 Video, and Technology Accessibility Act of
7 2026, including the requirement to provide
8 closed captioning on video programming that is
9 published or exhibited on television and subse-
10 quently delivered using internet protocol or any
11 successor protocol.”;

12 (3) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(d) CAPTION QUALITY UPDATES.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
16 after the date of submission of the recommendations
17 to the Commission under section 106(d)(1) of the
18 Communications, Video, and Technology Accessi-
19 bility Act of 2026, the Commission shall prescribe
20 regulations, taking into account those recommenda-
21 tions, that extend the requirements for the quality of
22 closed captions under section 79.1 of title 47, Code
23 of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulations,
24 to all online video programming and consumer gen-
25 erated media for which closed captioning is required

1 to be provided under subsection (c) or the regula-
2 tions prescribed thereunder.

3 “(2) REGULAR UPDATES.—Not later than 4
4 years after the date of enactment of the Commu-
5 nications, Video, and Technology Accessibility Act of
6 2026, and every 4 years thereafter, the Commission
7 shall—

8 “(A) review its regulations and associated
9 deadlines pertaining to the quality of closed
10 captions; and

11 “(B) as necessary, update the regulations
12 and associated deadlines described in subpara-
13 graph (A) to reflect technological and methodo-
14 logical advances.”; and

15 (4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

16 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
17 by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “sub-
18 sections (b) and (c)”; and

19 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “provider
20 or owner of such programming” and inserting
21 “entity responsible for publishing, exhibiting, or
22 making available such programming.”.

1 **SEC. 103. AUDIO DESCRIPTION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 713 of
3 the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 613), as re-
4 designated by section 102, is amended—

5 (1) in the heading, by striking “VIDEO” and in-
6 serting “AUDIO”; and

7 (2) by striking paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) and
8 inserting the following:

9 “(2) AUDIO DESCRIPTION REGULATIONS FOR
10 PROGRAMMING PUBLISHED OR EXHIBITED ON TELE-
11 VISION.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12
13 months after the date of submission of the rec-
14 ommendations to the Commission under section
15 106(d)(1) of the Communications, Video, and
16 Technology Accessibility Act of 2026, the Com-
17 mission shall revise its regulations, taking into
18 account those recommendations, to require all
19 video programming first published or exhibited
20 on television on or after the effective date of the
21 revised regulations to be fully accessible
22 through the provisions, receipt, and perform-
23 ance of audio description.

24 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations
25 revised under subparagraph (A)—

1 “(i) shall ensure that all English-lan-
2 guage and Spanish-language video pro-
3 gramming first published or exhibited on
4 television on or after the effective date of
5 the revised regulations, is fully accessible
6 through the provision, receipt, and per-
7 formance of audio description in the origi-
8 nal language of the audio track of the pro-
9 gramming in all designated market areas,
10 except as provided in paragraph (5);

11 “(ii) shall include an appropriate
12 schedule of deadlines, the earliest of which
13 shall be not less than 2 years after the ef-
14 fective date of the revised regulations and
15 the latest of which shall be not more than
16 6 years after that effective date, for the
17 provision, receipt, and performance of
18 audio described programming first pub-
19 lished or exhibited on television on or after
20 that effective date;

21 “(iii) shall provide that audio de-
22 scribed programming first published or ex-
23 hibited on television on or after the effec-
24 tive date of the revised regulations shall be
25 labeled and searchable or otherwise easily

1 discoverable through navigation devices,
2 apparatuses, applications, and other meth-
3 ods by which the programming is published
4 or exhibited;

5 “(iv) shall provide that to the extent
6 there is an audio channel or audio track
7 dedicated solely to making audio descrip-
8 tion available, video programming first
9 published or exhibited on television on or
10 after the effective date of the revised regu-
11 lations with audio description shall be
12 made available to the public on such chan-
13 nel or track, so long as it is achievable (as
14 defined in section 716(g)); and

15 “(v) shall require any entity involved
16 in the publishing or exhibiting of audio de-
17 scribed programming on television that is
18 first published or exhibited on or after the
19 effective date of the revised regulations to
20 provide contact information, consistent
21 with section 79.1(i) of title 47, Code of
22 Federal Regulations, or any successor reg-
23 ulation, for consumers to report problems
24 related to audio description.

1 “(3) AUDIO DESCRIPTION REGULATIONS FOR
2 ONLINE VIDEO PROGRAMMING AND CONSUMER GEN-
3 ERATED MEDIA.—

4 “(A) AUDIO DESCRIPTION REGULATIONS
5 FOR NEW ONLINE VIDEO PROGRAMMING.—Not
6 later than 18 months after the date of submis-
7 sion of the recommendations to the Commission
8 under section 106(d)(1) of the Communications,
9 Video, and Technology Accessibility Act of
10 2026, the Commission shall revise its regula-
11 tions, taking into account those recommenda-
12 tions, to require all online video programming
13 that is first made available on or after the ef-
14 fective date of the revised regulations to be fully
15 accessible through the provision, receipt, and
16 performance of audio description.

17 “(B) SCHEDULE.—The regulations revised
18 under subparagraph (A) shall include an appro-
19 priate schedule of deadlines, the earliest of
20 which shall be not less than 2 years after the
21 effective date of the revised regulations and the
22 latest of which shall be not more than 6 years
23 after that effective date, for the provision, re-
24 ceipt, and performance of audio description on

1 online video programming that is first made
2 available on or after that effective date.

3 “(C) REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULA-
4 TIONS.—The regulations revised under subpara-
5 graph (A) shall—

6 “(i) ensure that all English-language
7 and Spanish-language online video pro-
8 gramming that is first made available on
9 or after the effective date of the revised
10 regulations is fully accessible through the
11 provision, receipt, and performance of
12 audio description in the original language
13 of the audio track of the programming;

14 “(ii) define the categories of entities
15 engaged in making available online video
16 programming and apportion the respon-
17 sibilities for the provision, quality, pass-
18 through, and rendering of audio descrip-
19 tion among such entities to ensure that
20 audio description data—

21 “(I) remains with the video pro-
22 gramming to which the data is added;
23 and

24 “(II) is distributed in common
25 formats so that audio description can

1 be exhibited intact by all other entities
2 that subsequently make the program-
3 ming available to viewers;

4 “(iii) require, to the extent that an
5 entity makes available to the public guides
6 or listings of its online video programming,
7 that the entity include information about
8 the availability of audio description in
9 those guides or listings to enable that pro-
10 gramming to be searchable or easily dis-
11 coverable through navigation devices,
12 apparatuses, applications, and other meth-
13 ods on which the programming is made
14 available;

15 “(iv) shall provide that to the extent
16 there is an audio channel or audio track
17 dedicated solely to making audio descrip-
18 tion available, online video programming
19 shall be provided on such channel or track,
20 unless that is not achievable (as defined in
21 section 716(g)); and

22 “(v) require entities engaged in mak-
23 ing available audio described online video
24 programming to provide contact informa-
25 tion, consistent with section 79.4(c)(2)(iii)

of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, for end users to report problems related to audio description.

“(D) AUDIO DESCRIPTION REGULATIONS FOR OLDER ONLINE VIDEO PROGRAMMING AND ON CONSUMER GENERATED MEDIA.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of submission of the recommendations to the Commission under section 106(d)(1) of the Communications, Video, and Technology Accessibility Act of 2026, the Commission shall prescribe regulations, taking into account those recommendations, to maximize, through the provision, receipt, and performance of audio description, the accessibility of—

“(I) online video programming that is first made available before the effective date of the revised regulations under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph; and

“(II) consumer generated media.

“(ii) REQUIREMENT FOR CONSUMER GENERATED MEDIA.—In prescribing regu-

lations for consumer generated media under clause (i)(II), the Commission shall require that an entity engaged in making available consumer generated media, whether or not the entity is also engaged in making available video that is not consumer generated media, provides—

“(I) authoring tools that permit users who post videos on the entity’s platform to add closed captions;

“(II) timely and effective notice, at or before the time of upload, to users who post videos on the entity’s platform that such authoring tools are available for videos; and

“(III) guidance on how to use such authoring tools.

“(4) AUDIO DESCRIPTION QUALITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the Communications, Video, and Technology Accessibility Act of 2026, the Commission shall prescribe regulations to ensure the technical quality of audio description on video programming, including online video programming, and consumer gen-

1 erated media as necessary to afford access to
2 video programming and consumer generated
3 media that is functionally equivalent to the ac-
4 cess provided by the visual components of the
5 programming or media.

6 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations
7 prescribed under subparagraph (A) shall re-
8 quire that audio description—

9 “(i) effectively convey key visual ele-
10 ments of the program or media;

11 “(ii) when utilizing text-to-speech syn-
12 thetic voices, effectively convey the visual
13 content and vocal nuance of the program
14 or media in a manner that is functionally
15 equivalent to the ability of human voicing
16 to convey the visual content and vocal nu-
17 ance;

18 “(iii) be edited, encoded, and delivered
19 to the public in a manner that ensures
20 consistency with the editing, encoding, and
21 delivery of the non-description audio track
22 of the programming or media; and

23 “(iv) to the extent practicable, be pro-
24 vided for open subtitles in the same lan-
25 guage as the audio or in other languages

1 if the subtitles convey information relevant
2 to the program or media that is not con-
3 veyed in the audio of the program or
4 media.

5 “(C) COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT.—
6 For the purposes of achieving compliance with
7 and enforcement of the requirements of this
8 paragraph and the regulations prescribed there-
9 under, the Commission shall prescribe regula-
10 tions that include the compliance and enforce-
11 ment procedures under section 79.1(g)(9) of
12 title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any
13 successor regulation.

14 “(5) AUDIO DESCRIPTION EXEMPTIONS.—Not-
15 withstanding paragraphs (2) and (3)—

16 “(A) the Commission may exempt by regu-
17 lation from the requirements under paragraphs
18 (2) and (3) programs or media, classes of pro-
19 grams or media, or services for which the Com-
20 mission has determined that the provision of
21 audio description would be economically burden-
22 some to an entity responsible for publishing, ex-
23 hibiting, or making available such programming
24 or media; and

“(B) an entity responsible for publishing, exhibiting, or making available video programming or consumer generated media may petition the Commission for an exemption from the requirements under paragraphs (2) and (3), and the Commission may grant the exemption upon a showing that the requirement to include audio description would be economically burdensome.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
The Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.)
is amended—

(1) in title III (47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.)—

(A) in section 303(u) (47 U.S.C. 303(u))—

(i) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(I) by striking “video description” and inserting “audio description”; and

(II) by striking “section 713(f)” and inserting “section 713(g)”; and

(ii) by moving the left margin of that subsection and each paragraph, subparagraph, and clause therein 2 ems to the left; and

1 (B) in section 330(b) (47 U.S.C. 330(b)),
 2 by striking “video description” each place the
 3 term appears and inserting “audio description”;
 4 and

5 (2) in section 713 (47 U.S.C. 613), in sub-
 6 section (a)(1), as redesignated by section 101—

7 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
 8 “VIDEO DESCRIPTION” and inserting “AUDIO
 9 DESCRIPTION”; and

10 (B) by striking “video description” and in-
 11 serting “audio description”.

12 **SEC. 104. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RE-**
 13 **LATING TO ECONOMIC BURDEN.**

14 Subsection (f) of section 713 of the Communications
 15 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 613), as redesignated by section
 16 102, is amended to read as follows:

17 “(f) **ECONOMICALLY BURDENSOME.**—For purposes
 18 of this section, the term ‘economically burdensome’ means
 19 resulting in significant difficulty or expense. In deter-
 20 mining whether the closed captions or audio description
 21 necessary to comply with the requirements of this section
 22 would be economically burdensome, the factors to be con-
 23 sidered include—

24 “(1) the nature and cost of the closed captions
 25 or audio description for the programming;

1 “(2) the impact on the operation of the provider
2 or program owner;

3 “(3) the financial resources of the provider or
4 program owner; and

5 “(4) the type of operations of the provider or
6 program owner.”.

7 **SEC. 105. SIGN LANGUAGE IN VIDEO PROGRAMMING.**

8 Section 713 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
9 U.S.C. 613) is amended by inserting before subsection (j)
10 the following:

11 “(i) SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION OF VIDEO
12 PROGRAMMING.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
14 the date of submission of the recommendations to
15 the Commission under section 106(d)(2) of the Com-
16 munications, Video, and Technology Accessibility
17 Act of 2026, the Commission shall prescribe regula-
18 tions, taking into account those recommendations, to
19 require, in the case of video programming first pub-
20 lished or exhibited on television or first delivered
21 using internet protocol or any successor protocol on
22 or after the effective date of the regulations that in-
23 cludes the provision of sign language, that the entity
24 providing the programming ensure that the sign lan-
25 guage presentation is visible on the viewer’s screen

1 throughout the programming pursuant to standards
 2 established by the Commission.

3 “(2) COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT.—For
 4 the purposes of achieving compliance with and en-
 5 forcement of the requirements of this subsection and
 6 the regulations prescribed thereunder, the Commis-
 7 sion shall prescribe regulations that include the com-
 8 pliance and enforcement procedures under section
 9 79.1(g)(9) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations,
 10 or any successor regulation.”.

11 **SEC. 106. CLOSED CAPTIONING, AUDIO DESCRIPTION, AND**
 12 **SIGN LANGUAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

13 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section:

15 (A) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term
 16 “Advisory Committee” means the Closed Cap-
 17 tioning, Audio Description, and Sign Language
 18 Advisory Committee established under sub-
 19 section (b).

20 (B) CHAIR.—The term “Chair” means the
 21 Chairman of the Commission.

22 (C) COMMISSION.—The term “Commis-
 23 sion” means the Federal Communications Com-
 24 mission.

1 (D) CONSUMER GENERATED MEDIA.—The
2 term “consumer generated media” has the
3 meaning given the term in section 3 of the
4 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

5 (2) TERMS DEFINED IN SECTION 713 OF THE
6 COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.—In this section, the
7 terms “audio description”, “live programming”,
8 “near-live programming”, “online video program-
9 ming”, “prerecorded programming”, and “video pro-
10 gramming” have the meanings given those terms in
11 section 713 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
12 U.S.C. 613), as amended by this title.

13 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Chair shall establish
15 an advisory committee to be known as the “Closed Cap-
16 tioning, Audio Description, and Sign Language Advisory
17 Committee”.

18 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Chair shall appoint individ-
19 uals who have the technical knowledge and engineering ex-
20 pertise to serve on the Advisory Committee in the fulfill-
21 ment of its duties, including the following:

22 (1) Individual representatives, or representa-
23 tives of national organizations, including broad-
24 casters and multichannel video programming dis-
25 tributors (as defined in section 602 of the Commu-

1 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 522)), engaged in
2 making available video programming, including on-
3 line video programming.

4 (2) Individual representatives, or representa-
5 tives of national organizations, of vendors, devel-
6 opers, and manufacturers of systems, facilities, in-
7 formation technology equipment, and consumer elec-
8 tronics for the provision of video programming, in-
9 cluding online video programming.

10 (3) Individuals with expertise generating con-
11 sumer generated media.

12 (4) Representatives of national organizations
13 representing individuals with disabilities and older
14 Americans.

15 (5) Representatives of service agencies engaged
16 in the provision of captioning and audio description
17 for video programming, including online video pro-
18 gramming.

19 (6) Academic experts or representatives of re-
20 search institutes with expertise on closed captioning
21 and audio description.

22 (7) Individuals with expertise that can con-
23 tribute to standards for the display of sign language
24 interpretation on video programming.

1 (8) Other individuals with technical and engi-
2 neering expertise, as the Chair determines appro-
3 priate.

4 (d) DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—

5 (1) CLOSED CAPTIONING AND AUDIO DESCRIP-
6 TION RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 180 days
7 after the date of establishment of the Advisory Com-
8 mittee under subsection (b), the Advisory Committee
9 shall develop and submit to the Commission rec-
10 ommendations that include the following:

11 (A) A recommended schedule of deadlines
12 for the provision of closed captioning and audio
13 description on online video programming.

14 (B) Identification of, and recommendations
15 for, the protocols and technical capabilities,
16 standards, and procedures needed to enable re-
17 sponsible entities to reliably provide, receive,
18 and display closed captions and audio descrip-
19 tion of online video programming.

20 (C) A recommendation for any regulations
21 that may be necessary to ensure compatibility
22 between online video programming and
23 apparatuses and navigation devices capable of
24 receiving and displaying such programming in

1 order to facilitate access to closed captions and
2 audio description.

3 (D) Identification of the categories of enti-
4 ties involved in the delivery of online video pro-
5 gramming, along with a recommendation on
6 how to apportion the responsibilities for the
7 provision, quality, pass-through, and display of
8 closed captions and the provision, quality, pass-
9 through, and performance of audio description
10 among those entities to ensure full access by
11 viewers.

12 (E) A recommendation for defining metrics
13 and thresholds to be used for measuring—

14 (i) the accuracy, synchronicity, com-
15 pleteness, and placement of closed captions
16 for live programming as necessary to af-
17 ford access to video programming that is
18 functionally equivalent to the access pro-
19 vided by the audio track, with minimum
20 thresholds that are neutral to different mo-
21 dalities for creating closed captions; and

22 (ii) the quality of audio description as
23 necessary to afford access to video pro-
24 gramming that is functionally equivalent to
25 the access provided visually with minimum

1 thresholds that are neutral to different mo-
2 dalities for creating audio description.

3 (F) A recommendation for the achievability
4 of making audio description available on a dedi-
5 cated audio channel.

6 (G) A recommendation for standards, pro-
7 tocols, and procedures to ensure that audio de-
8 scribed video programming is labeled and
9 searchable or otherwise easily discoverable
10 through navigation devices, apparatuses, appli-
11 cations, and other methods on which such pro-
12 gramming is published, exhibited, or made
13 available.

14 (H) A recommendation for best practices
15 for ensuring that closed captions and audio de-
16 scription on programming that was live pro-
17 gramming or near-live programming at the time
18 that it was initially made available to viewers
19 are subsequently made available at the level of
20 quality required for prerecorded programming.

21 (I) Identification of attributes of easy-to-
22 use authoring tools that permit users who post
23 videos on a platform to add closed captions and
24 audio description to online video programming.

1 (J) Recommendations for applying the
2 closed captioning and audio description obliga-
3 tions under section 713 of the Communications
4 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 613), as amended by
5 this title, to consumer generated media, includ-
6 ing—

7 (i) thresholds and measures used to
8 determine the extent to which the obliga-
9 tions, including obligations for providing
10 closed captioning and audio description on
11 video clips, should apply to consumer gen-
12 erated media, for which the Advisory Com-
13 mittee may consider—

14 (I) the volume of postings;

15 (II) the size of viewership;

16 (III) whether the obligation is
17 economically burdensome (as defined
18 in section 713(f) of the Communica-
19 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 613(f)),
20 as amended by this title); and

21 (IV) other measures as necessary
22 to ensure expanded access for individ-
23 uals with disabilities;

1 (ii) deadlines for bringing consumer
2 generated media into compliance with the
3 obligations; and

4 (iii) reasonable timeframes for pro-
5 viders of consumer generated media to re-
6 spond to consumer complaints and con-
7 cerns relating to closed captioning and
8 audio description on consumer generated
9 media.

10 (K) Recommendations for applying the
11 closed captioning and audio description obliga-
12 tions under section 713 of the Communications
13 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 613), as amended by
14 this title, to online video programming that was
15 first made available before the effective date of
16 the applicable regulations revised under that
17 section, pursuant to this title, including—

18 (i) deadlines for bringing such pro-
19 gramming into compliance with the closed
20 captioning and audio description obliga-
21 tions, for which the Advisory Committee
22 may consider—

23 (I) the volume of programming;

24 (II) the size of viewership;

1 (III) whether the obligation is
 2 economically burdensome (as defined
 3 in section 713(f) of the Communica-
 4 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 613(f)),
 5 as amended by this title); and

6 (IV) other measures as necessary
 7 to ensure expanded access for individ-
 8 uals with disabilities;

9 (ii) the intervals at which determina-
 10 tions under clause (i) should be reviewed
 11 and updated; and

12 (iii) reasonable timeframes for pro-
 13 viders of such programming to respond to
 14 consumer complaints and concerns relating
 15 to closed captioning and audio description
 16 on such programing.

17 (2) SIGN LANGUAGE VIDEO PROGRAMMING RE-
 18 PORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of
 19 establishment of the Advisory Committee, the Advi-
 20 sory Committee shall develop and submit to the
 21 Commission recommendations for standards to en-
 22 sure that where sign language is provided on video
 23 programming, it is visible on the viewer’s screen
 24 throughout the programming.

25 (e) MEETINGS.—

1 (1) INITIAL MEETING.—The initial meeting of
2 the Advisory Committee shall take place not later
3 than 45 days after the date on which the Chair has
4 appointed all the members of the Advisory Com-
5 mittee under subsection (c).

6 (2) OTHER MEETINGS.—After the initial meet-
7 ing, the Advisory Committee shall meet at the call
8 of the Chair.

9 (3) NOTICE; OPEN MEETINGS.—Any meeting
10 held by the Advisory Committee shall be noticed not
11 later than 14 days before the meeting and shall be
12 open to the public.

13 (f) PROCEDURAL RULES.—

14 (1) QUORUM.—The presence of one-third of the
15 members of the Advisory Committee shall constitute
16 a quorum for conducting the business of the Advi-
17 sory Committee.

18 (2) SUBCOMMITTEES.—To assist the Advisory
19 Committee in carrying out its functions, the Chair
20 may establish appropriate subcommittees composed
21 of members of the Advisory Committee and other
22 subject matter experts.

23 (3) ADDITIONAL PROCEDURAL RULES.—The
24 Advisory Committee may adopt other procedural
25 rules as needed.

1 (g) INAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COM-
 2 MITTEE ACT.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code,
 3 shall not apply to the Advisory Committee.

4 **SEC. 107. INQUIRIES AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

5 Section 713 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
 6 U.S.C. 613) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 7 lowing:

8 “(k) INQUIRIES AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

9 “(1) INQUIRIES AND REPORTS ON FURTHER
 10 VIDEO PROGRAMMING ACCESSIBILITY REQUIRE-
 11 MENTS.—

12 “(A) CLOSED CAPTIONING.—Not later
 13 than 4 years after the effective date of the reg-
 14 ulations prescribed under subsection (c)(2)(D)
 15 of this section to implement, as appropriate, the
 16 recommendations described in subparagraphs
 17 (J) and (K) of section 106(d)(1) of the Com-
 18 munications, Video, and Technology Accessi-
 19 bility Act of 2026, the Commission shall com-
 20 mence inquiries on, and not later than 1 year
 21 thereafter, the Commission shall submit to Con-
 22 gress a report on, each of the matters described
 23 in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

24 “(B) AUDIO DESCRIPTION.—Not later
 25 than 4 years after the effective date of the reg-

1 ulations prescribed under subsection (g)(3)(D)
 2 of this section to implement, as appropriate, the
 3 recommendations described in subparagraphs
 4 (J) and (K) of section 106(d)(1) of the Com-
 5 munications, Video, and Technology Accessi-
 6 bility Act of 2026, the Commission shall com-
 7 mence inquiries on, and not later than 1 year
 8 thereafter, the Commission shall submit to Con-
 9 gress a report on, each of the matters described
 10 in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

11 “(2) CONTENT OF INQUIRIES AND REPORTS.—

12 The matters described in this paragraph are the fol-
 13 lowing:

14 “(A) The availability, use, and benefits of
 15 providing closed captioning or audio description
 16 (as applicable) on consumer generated media.

17 “(B) The availability, use, and benefits of
 18 providing closed captioning or audio description
 19 (as applicable) on online video programming
 20 that was first made available before the effec-
 21 tive date of the revised regulations under sub-
 22 section (c)(2)(A) or (g)(3)(A), respectively.

23 “(C) The technical and operational issues
 24 and costs of providing closed captioning or
 25 audio description (as applicable) on—

1 “(i) consumer generated media; and

2 “(ii) video programming described in
3 subparagraph (B).

4 “(D) The extent to which the measures,
5 thresholds, scope, intervals, and associated
6 deadlines used by the Commission to determine
7 the closed captioning or audio description (as
8 applicable) obligations for consumer generated
9 media and video programming described in sub-
10 paragraph (B) have been effective in providing
11 video programming access to individuals with
12 disabilities.

13 “(3) CONTINUING COMMISSION AUTHORITY.—
14 The Commission may, as necessary, update its regu-
15 lations and associated deadlines for the provision of
16 closed captioning or audio description on consumer
17 generated media and video programming described
18 in paragraph (2)(B) if the Commission determines,
19 based on the findings in the applicable report under
20 paragraph (1), that updated regulations are nec-
21 essary to—

22 “(A) effectively meet the accessibility needs
23 of individuals with disabilities; and

24 “(B) reflect technological and methodo-
25 logical advances.”.

TITLE II—VIDEO PLAYBACK APPARATUSES

SEC. 201. VIDEO PLAYBACK APPARATUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 303) is amended—

(1) in subsection (u)—

(A) by adjusting the margins 2 ems to the left; and

(B) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “visually impaired” and inserting “low vision”;

(2) in subsection (z)—

(A) by adjusting the margins 2 ems to the left; and

(B) by striking “video description” each place it appears and inserting “audio description”; and

(3) in subsection (aa)—

(A) by adjusting the margins 2 ems to the left;

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or any successor protocol” after “protocol”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “video description” and inserting “audio description”; and

(ii) by striking “and” at the end;

1 (D) by redesignating paragraph (4) as
2 paragraph (8);

3 (E) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
4 following:

5 “(4) that the mechanism used for activating the
6 closed captioning, audio description, and other acces-
7 sibility features described in paragraph (3) be ‘read-
8 ily accessible’ as defined by the factors enumerated
9 in section 79.103(e)(1) of title 47, Code of Federal
10 Regulations, or any successor regulation;

11 “(5) that, if achievable and technically feasible,
12 apparatus equipped with the functions described in
13 paragraph (1) be equipped with an audio channel or
14 audio track dedicated solely to making audio de-
15 scription available;

16 “(6) that apparatus equipped with the functions
17 described in paragraph (1) provide a user with a
18 prompt to modify closed captioning and audio de-
19 scription activation and performance settings upon
20 initial power-on after user purchase of the apparatus
21 or upon a reset to factory settings of the apparatus;

22 “(7) that apparatus equipped with the functions
23 described in paragraph (1), if technically feasible,
24 provide the necessary hardware and software to
25 achieve compatibility with, and to the extent achiev-

1 able (as defined in section 716(g)), the integration
 2 of, assistive technologies and services, peripheral de-
 3 vices, or specialized customer premises equipment
 4 commonly used by individuals with disabilities to
 5 achieve access to the apparatus, including
 6 refreshable braille displays, switch activation such as
 7 sip and puff devices, hearing aids, hands-free tech-
 8 nologies, and, if such apparatus is equipped with
 9 voice input that is used to access its functions, voice
 10 recognition functionality so that such menus or indi-
 11 cators are accessible to and usable by individuals
 12 with speech disabilities in real-time; and”;

13 (F) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated,
 14 by striking “does not include” and inserting
 15 with “includes”.

16 (b) IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.—

17 (1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
 18 “navigation device” has the meaning given the term
 19 in section 76.1200 of title 47, Code of Federal Reg-
 20 ulations, or any successor regulation.

21 (2) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 18 months
 22 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal
 23 Communications Commission shall prescribe such
 24 regulations that apportion the responsibilities for
 25 compliance with subsections (u), (z), and (aa) of sec-

1 tion 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
 2 U.S.C. 303), as amended by subsection (a), among
 3 the categories of entities engaged in manufacturing,
 4 importing into the United States, maintaining, oper-
 5 ating, or providing applications, plugins, or other
 6 software for apparatus and navigation devices to en-
 7 sure full access by viewers via all entities responsible
 8 for digital apparatus and navigation devices.

9 **TITLE III—COMMUNICATIONS** 10 **SERVICES**

11 **SEC. 301. VIDEO CONFERENCING.**

12 The Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et
 13 seq.) is amended—

14 (1) in section 3 (47 U.S.C. 153)—

15 (A) by redesignating paragraph (59) as
 16 paragraph (60); and

17 (B) by inserting after paragraph (58) the
 18 following:

19 “(59) VISUAL INTERPRETATION SERVICES.—

20 The term ‘visual interpretation services’ means
 21 functionality that is achieved using human assist-
 22 ance or automation to generate real-time descrip-
 23 tions of visual information, including images and
 24 text, for the purpose of conveying those descriptions
 25 to individuals who are blind or low vision.”; and

(2) in section 716(e) (47 U.S.C. 617(e)), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) REVISION OF REGULATIONS; VIDEO CONFERENCING SERVICES.—

“(A) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Commission shall prescribe regulations to require, unless not achievable, that all providers of interoperable video conferencing services and all manufacturers of equipment capable of providing or enabling interoperable video conferencing services make available—

“(i) voice recognition functionality that is capable of generating understandable speech when used by individuals with speech disabilities;

“(ii) a simplified user interface that is accessible to individuals with cognitive disabilities, including a simplified, secure modality for initiating and authenticating interoperable video conferencing services;

“(iii) instructional materials for activating interoperable video conferencing services with plain and simple language

1 and iconography that is accessible to indi-
2 viduals with cognitive disabilities;

3 “(iv) visual interpretation services;

4 “(v) screen-reader capability for all
5 user interface elements and visual informa-
6 tion, including presentations, videos, and
7 interactive documents shared during inter-
8 operable video conferencing calls;

9 “(vi) refreshable braille displays and
10 other devices used for the tactile convey-
11 ance of interface elements and visual infor-
12 mation, including presentations, videos,
13 and interactive documents shared during
14 interoperable video conferencing calls; and

15 “(vii) hands-free technologies.

16 “(B) INDUSTRY FLEXIBILITY.—An entity
17 may satisfy the requirements under the regula-
18 tions prescribed under subparagraph (A) with
19 respect to the video conferencing services,
20 equipment, or systems the entity provides or
21 manufactures, as applicable, by ensuring that
22 the services, equipment, or systems are acces-
23 sible and usable by individuals with disabili-
24 ties—

1 “(i) without the use of third party ap-
2 plications, peripheral devices, software,
3 hardware, or customer premises equip-
4 ment; or

5 “(ii) with the use of third party appli-
6 cations, peripheral devices, software, hard-
7 ware, or customer premises equipment, so
8 long as consumers are not assessed
9 charges associated with achieving accessi-
10 bility through such third party mecha-
11 nisms.

12 “(C) COMPATIBILITY FOR VIDEO CONFER-
13 ENCING SERVICES.—If compliance with a regu-
14 lation prescribed under subparagraph (A) is not
15 achievable through the means set forth in sub-
16 paragraph (B), a manufacturer or provider that
17 enables interoperable video conferencing serv-
18 ices shall, unless not achievable, ensure that its
19 interoperable video conferencing service or
20 equipment is compatible with existing periph-
21 eral devices or specialized customer premises
22 equipment commonly used by individuals with
23 disabilities to provide the accessibility features
24 described in subparagraph (A).”.

1 **SEC. 302. RELAY SERVICES.**

2 Section 225 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
3 U.S.C. 225) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
6 (3) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively;

7 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
8 following:

9 “(2) COMMUNICATION FACILITATOR.—The term
10 ‘communication facilitator’ means a skilled user of
11 sign language who is able to facilitate the ability of
12 a DeafBlind person to engage in transmission and
13 other services described in this section by conveying
14 the information provided during the use of those
15 services to the DeafBlind person through close vision
16 or tactile sign language.

17 “(3) DEAF INTERPRETER.—The term ‘Deaf in-
18 terpreter’ means an individual who—

19 “(A) is deaf or hard of hearing;

20 “(B) possesses native or near-native flu-
21 ency in sign language; and

22 “(C) has specialized training or experience
23 to assist in providing functionally equivalent
24 sign language interpretation for an individual
25 using sign language in a situation that—

1 “(i) requires linguistic or cultural me-
2 diation;

3 “(ii) may be highly complex in nature;
4 or

5 “(iii) may involve individuals who face
6 linguistic challenges, such as through
7 atypical language use, language depriva-
8 tion, or idiosyncratic signing styles.

9 “(4) DIRECT VIDEO CALLING SERVICE.—The
10 term ‘direct video calling service’ means telephone
11 customer support using one-to-one video communica-
12 tion that—

13 “(A) is facilitated by a contact center rep-
14 resentative; and

15 “(B) enables a real-time conversation to
16 occur directly between not fewer than 2 parties
17 using sign language—

18 “(i) not less than 1 of the parties to
19 which is a governmental agency, business,
20 non-profit organization, emergency author-
21 ity, or other enterprise; and

22 “(ii) not less than 1 of the parties to
23 which—

24 “(I)(aa) is deaf, hard of hearing,
25 or DeafBlind; or

1 “(bb) has a speech disability or
2 auditory processing disorder; and

3 “(II) relies on sign language for
4 communication.”; and

5 (C) by striking paragraph (6), as so redes-
6 igned, and inserting the following:

7 “(6) TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERV-
8 ICES.—The term ‘telecommunications relay services’
9 means—

10 “(A) transmission services that provide the
11 ability for an individual who is deaf, hard of
12 hearing, or DeafBlind, or who has a speech dis-
13 ability or an auditory processing disorder, to
14 engage in communication by wire or radio with
15 1 or more individuals, in a manner that is func-
16 tionally equivalent to, or, if technically feasible,
17 provides access that is equal to, the ability of
18 a hearing individual who does not have a speech
19 disability to communicate using voice commu-
20 nication services or advanced communications
21 services by wire or radio; and

22 “(B) other services facilitating functionally
23 equivalent communication by wire or radio for
24 an individual who is deaf, hard of hearing, or
25 DeafBlind, or who has a speech disability or an

1 auditory processing disorder, including the pro-
 2 vision of communication facilitators for an indi-
 3 vidual who is DeafBlind and the provision of di-
 4 rect video calling services for communication in
 5 real-time by sign language users with customer
 6 service centers and other call centers operated
 7 by local, State, or Federal Government agen-
 8 cies, crisis centers, and emergency authorities.”;
 9 and

10 (2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the
 11 following:

12 “(4) SIGN LANGUAGE ACCESS TO EMERGENCY
 13 SERVICES; COMMUNICATION FACILITATORS; DIRECT
 14 VIDEO CALLING SERVICES.—

15 “(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the
 16 term ‘video relay service’ has the meaning given
 17 the term in section 64.601(a)(57) of title 47,
 18 Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor
 19 regulation.

20 “(B) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 2
 21 years after the date of enactment of this para-
 22 graph, the Commission shall prescribe such reg-
 23 ulations as are necessary to—

24 “(i) define as eligible for relay service
 25 support from the fund described in section

1 64.604(c)(5)(iii) of title 47, Code of Fed-
2 eral Regulations, as in effect on that date
3 of enactment—

4 “(I) direct video calling services
5 between sign language users and call
6 center representatives in local, State,
7 or Federal government agencies, crisis
8 centers, and emergency authorities;

9 “(II) services provided by com-
10 munication facilitators on tele-
11 communications relay services calls
12 with individuals who are DeafBlind;
13 and

14 “(III) the provision of a Deaf in-
15 terpreter to accompany a hearing
16 communications assistant, as defined
17 in section 64.601(a)(13) of title 47,
18 Code of Federal Regulations, or any
19 successor regulation, when necessary
20 to assist in providing functionally
21 equivalent sign language interpreta-
22 tion on calls using video relay service;

23 “(ii) achieve full, equal, and direct ac-
24 cess to public safety answering points, as
25 that term is defined in section 222(h), and

1 other local emergency authorities, includ-
 2 ing emergency authorities responding to
 3 wireless calls placed by dialing 9–1–1, by
 4 individuals who—

5 “(I) are deaf, hard of hearing, or
 6 DeafBlind, or who have a speech dis-
 7 ability or a cognitive disability; and

8 “(II) use sign language; and

9 “(iii) unless not achievable (as defined
 10 in section 716(g)), ensure that a person
 11 can have a single telephone number for the
 12 purpose of receiving calls and messages
 13 from other entities calling by means of
 14 video relay services or voice or electronic
 15 text messaging services.

16 “(C) CONTENTS.—The regulations de-
 17 scribed in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall, unless not
 18 achievable (as defined in section 716(g)), at a
 19 minimum, require that users communicating by
 20 means of a video relay service or a direct video
 21 calling service shall be capable of using native
 22 dialing or 1-step access on a mobile phone so
 23 that such communication—

24 “(i) includes the location information
 25 of the user, to be transmitted and delivered

1 immediately and directly to the applicable
2 emergency authority; and

3 “(ii) is received by the applicable
4 emergency authority with the same speed
5 and efficiency as a voice call made by dial-
6 ing 9–1–1.

7 “(5) REASSESSMENT OF AVAILABLE SERVICES
8 AND MINIMUM STANDARDS.—Not later than 4 years
9 after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and
10 once every 4 years thereafter, the Commission shall,
11 as necessary to respond to evolving communication
12 technologies, reassess and update the regulations
13 prescribed under this subsection to ensure that those
14 regulations effectively satisfy the communication
15 needs of individuals with disabilities who are covered
16 by this Act, including by—

17 “(A) assessing the need for new modes of
18 telecommunications relay services; and

19 “(B) increasing and improving the manda-
20 tory minimum standards to ensure the quality
21 and privacy of telecommunications relay serv-
22 ices.”.

1 **SEC. 303. NATIONAL DEAFBLIND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.**
 2

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 719 of the Communica-
 4 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 620) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) by striking “low-income”; and

7 (B) by striking “deaf-blind” and inserting
 8 “DeafBlind”;

9 (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
 10 lows:

11 “(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘indi-
 12 vidual who is DeafBlind’—

13 “(1) has the meaning given the term ‘individual
 14 who is deaf-blind’ in section 206 of the Helen Keller
 15 National Center Act (29 U.S.C. 1905); and

16 “(2) includes an individual who—

17 “(A) for the purposes of satisfying sub-
 18 paragraph (A)(i) of such section 206(2), has
 19 been diagnosed with a cortical or cerebral visual
 20 impairment;

21 “(B) for the purposes of satisfying sub-
 22 paragraph (A)(ii) of such section 206(2), has
 23 been diagnosed with an auditory processing dis-
 24 order; or

25 “(C) for the purposes of satisfying sub-
 26 paragraphs (A)(i) and (A)(ii) of such section

1 206(2), has been diagnosed with both a cortical
 2 or cerebral visual impairment and an auditory
 3 processing disorder.”; and

4 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “\$10,000,000”
 5 and inserting “\$20,000,000, which the Commission
 6 shall adjust annually for inflation using an inflation
 7 factor determined by the Commission”.

8 (b) UPDATE TO REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18
 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Fed-
 10 eral Communications Commission shall update section
 11 64.610 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any
 12 successor regulation, to ensure consistency with the
 13 amendments made by subsection (a).

14 **TITLE IV—CUSTOMER SERVICE**

15 **SEC. 401. USABILITY OF ADVANCED COMMUNICATION AND** 16 **VIDEO PROGRAMMING SERVICES.**

17 Section 716 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
 18 U.S.C. 617) is amended—

19 (1) by redesignating subsection (j) as sub-
 20 section (k); and

21 (2) by inserting after subsection (i) the fol-
 22 lowing:

23 “(j) USABILITY.—

1 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
2 ‘direct video calling services’ has the meaning given
3 the term in section 225(a).

4 “(2) MANUFACTURERS AND SERVICE PRO-
5 VIDERS.—If a manufacturer or service provider to
6 which subsections (a) and (b) apply offers live or
7 machine-generated customer assistance to the gen-
8 eral public, each such entity shall, unless not achiev-
9 able, make such assistance usable to individuals with
10 disabilities who rely on sign language by making
11 available the ability to communicate in real time in
12 sign language with customer service agents through
13 direct video calling services.

14 “(3) VIDEO PROGRAMMING.—If a video pro-
15 gramming provider, multi-video programming dis-
16 tributor, or video apparatus manufacturer to which
17 this Act applies offers live or machine-generated cus-
18 tomer assistance to the general public, each such en-
19 tity shall, unless not achievable, make that assist-
20 ance usable to individuals with disabilities who rely
21 on sign language by making available the ability to
22 communicate in real time in sign language with cus-
23 tomer service agents through direct video calling
24 services.

25 “(4) REGULATIONS.—The Commission shall—

1 “(A) not later than 1 year after the date
2 of enactment of this paragraph, prescribe such
3 regulations as may be necessary to implement
4 paragraph (2), which shall contain standards to
5 ensure that direct video calling services for indi-
6 viduals with disabilities who rely on sign lan-
7 guage as their primary form of communication
8 receive customer and technical support that is
9 not less effective in terms of availability, scope,
10 and quality than customer and technical sup-
11 port provided to the general public; and

12 “(B) not later than 2 years after the date
13 of enactment of this paragraph, prescribe such
14 regulations as may be necessary to implement
15 paragraph (3), which shall contain standards to
16 ensure that direct video calling services for indi-
17 viduals with disabilities who rely on sign lan-
18 guage as their primary form of communication
19 receive customer and technical support that is
20 not less effective in terms of availability, scope,
21 and quality than customer service provided to
22 the general public.”.

TITLE V—EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

3 **SEC. 501. EMERGING TECHNOLOGY.**

4 Title VII of the Communications Act of 1934 (42
5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the
6 following:

7 **“SEC. 723. EMERGING TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY.**

8 “(a) AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMU-
9 NICATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘augment-
10 ative and alternative communication’ means any tool,
11 method, technology, strategy, service, training, coaching,
12 or other support used to supplement or replace speech.

13 “(b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 5
14 years after the date of enactment of this section, and every
15 5 years thereafter, the Commission shall, in consultation
16 with the United States Access Board, submit to the Com-
17 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
18 Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
19 the House of Representatives a report assessing—

20 “(1) the extent to which emerging communica-
21 tion and video programming technologies, such as
22 those that include the use of artificial intelligence,
23 augmented reality, virtual reality, extended reality,
24 dual reality, spatial computing, and other advanced
25 machine learning, wireless technologies, including

1 Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, robotics, the Internet of
2 Things, and other forms of advanced computing
3 power, result in accessibility opportunities and bar-
4 riers for individuals with disabilities; and

5 “(2) solutions needed to ensure that emerging
6 communications and video programming technologies
7 and services such as those described in paragraph
8 (1)—

9 “(A) are accessible to individuals with dis-
10 abilities; and

11 “(B) provide the necessary hardware and
12 software to achieve compatibility with periph-
13 eral devices or specialized customer premises
14 equipment commonly used by individuals with
15 disabilities to achieve access.

16 “(c) ASSESSMENT OF EFFECT ON INDIVIDUALS
17 WITH PARTICULAR BARRIERS.—In preparing each report
18 required under subsection (b), the Commission shall assess
19 the effect of emerging technologies on individuals with dis-
20 abilities who have particular barriers to participation and
21 communication with those technologies, including individ-
22 uals with disabilities who—

23 “(1) have limited language or communication
24 abilities, including individuals with speech disabil-
25 ities and those that use augmentative and alter-

1 native communication, and individuals with cognitive
2 disabilities;

3 “(2) have significant, targeted, or multiple dis-
4 abilities, including individuals who are blind or low
5 vision, deaf or hard of hearing, DeafBlind, have an
6 auditory processing disorder, a cortical or cerebral
7 visual impairment, or have both communication and
8 mobility disabilities; or

9 “(3) in addition to their disability, lack access
10 to advanced communication services and technology
11 due to age, geographical location, socioeconomic sta-
12 tus or Tribal affiliation.

13 “(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 2 years after
14 the date on which the Commission submits each report
15 required under subsection (b), the Commission shall pre-
16 scribe new or update existing regulations for ensuring the
17 accessibility of emerging communications and video pro-
18 gramming technologies and services by individuals with
19 disabilities where doing so is necessary to further the goals
20 of the statutory provisions implemented by the regulations
21 of the Commission under parts 6, 7, 14, and 79 of title
22 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regula-
23 tion intended to fulfill these goals.”.

1 **TITLE VI—ENFORCEMENT AND** 2 **REPORTING**

3 **SEC. 601. ACCESSIBILITY ENFORCEMENT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 503(b)(5) of the Commu-
 5 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 503(b)(5)) is amended
 6 by inserting after “uses that tower” the following: “, or
 7 in the case of violations of this Act related to requirements
 8 of accessibility for individuals with disabilities, including
 9 violations of section 225, section 255, section
 10 276(b)(1)(A), subsections (u) through (aa) of section 303,
 11 section 330(b), section 710, section 711, section 713, or
 12 sections 715 through 719”.

13 (b) OTHER LAWS.—This Act and the amendments
 14 made by this Act shall not be construed to modify, impair,
 15 supersede, or preclude enforcement of violations of other
 16 State or Federal disability rights and civil rights laws.

17 **SEC. 602. ACCESSIBILITY COMPLAINT REPORTING.**

18 Section 717 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
 19 U.S.C. 618) is amended by striking subsections (b), (c),
 20 (d), and (e) and inserting the following:

21 “(b) ACCESSIBILITY COMPLAINT REPORTING RE-
 22 QUIREMENT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of en-
 23 actment of the Communications, Video, and Technology
 24 Accessibility Act of 2026, and every 3 years thereafter,
 25 the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Com-

1 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the
2 Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of
3 Representatives a report that includes the following:

4 “(1) The number and nature of complaints re-
5 ceived pursuant to subsection (u), (z), or (aa) of sec-
6 tion 303, section 330(b), section 713, and section
7 716(a) during the period covered by the report.

8 “(2) A description of the actions taken to re-
9 solve the complaints described in paragraph (1), in-
10 cluding forfeiture penalties assessed.

11 “(3) The length of time that was taken by the
12 Commission to resolve each such complaint.

13 “(4) The number, status, nature, and outcome
14 of each action for mandamus filed pursuant to sec-
15 tion 717(a)(6) and the number, status, nature, and
16 outcome of each appeal filed pursuant to section
17 402(b)(10).”.

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