

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1078

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 with respect to retransmission consent and must-carry for cable operators and satellite carriers.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 1999

Mr. PAUL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 with respect to retransmission consent and must-carry for cable operators and satellite carriers.

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.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “TV Consumer Free-  
5       dom Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. RETRANSMISSION CONSENT.**

7       Section 325(b) of the Communications Act of 1934  
8       (47 U.S.C. 325(b)) is amended—

1           (1) by striking “(b)(1)” and all that follows  
2           through the end of paragraph (1) and inserting the  
3           following:

4           “(b)(1) No cable system or other multichannel video  
5           programming distributor shall retransmit the signal of a  
6           broadcasting station, or any part thereof, except with the  
7           express authority of the station.”;

8           (2) in paragraph (3)—

9                   (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and  
10           of the right to signal carriage under section  
11           614”;

12                   (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and  
13           the right to signal carriage under section 614”;  
14           and

15           (C) by adding at the end the following:

16           “(C) Within 45 days after the effective date of the  
17           TV Consumer Freedom Act, the Commission shall com-  
18           mence a rulemaking proceeding to revise the regulations  
19           governing the exercise by television broadcast stations of  
20           the right to grant retransmission consent under this sub-  
21           section. Such regulations shall establish election time peri-  
22           ods that correspond with those regulations adopted under  
23           subparagraph (B). The rulemaking shall be completed  
24           within 180 days after the effective date of the TV Con-  
25           sumer Freedom Act.”; and

1           (3) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5) and re-  
2           designating paragraph (6) as paragraph (4).

3   **SEC. 3. ELIMINATION OF MUST-CARRY REQUIREMENTS.**

4           (a) REPORT.—Sections 614 and 615 of the Commu-  
5           nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 534 and 535) are re-  
6           pealed.

7           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

8           (1) Section 623(b)(7)(A) of the Communica-  
9           tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 543(b)(7)(A)) is  
10          amended by striking clause (i) and redesignating  
11          clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (i) and (ii).

12          (2) Section 635 of the Communications Act of  
13          1934 (47 U.S.C. 555) is amended by striking sub-  
14          section (c).

15          (3) Section 653 of the Communications Act of  
16          1934 (47 U.S.C. 573) is amended—

17                 (A) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by striking  
18                 “614, or 615,”; and

19                 (B) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking  
20                 “sections 611, 614, and 615” and inserting  
21                 “section 611”.

22          (4) Section 336(b)(3) of the Communications  
23          Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 336(b)(3)) is amended by  
24          striking “have any rights to carriage under section  
25          614 or 615 or”.

1 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2       This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall  
3 take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

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