

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2643

To require a report by the Federal Communications Commission on designated market areas.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 2014

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

A BILL

To require a report by the Federal Communications Commission on designated market areas.

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. REPORT ON DESIGNATED MARKET AREAS.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

5 (1) the term “appropriate congressional com-
6 mittees” means—

7 (A) the Committee on Energy and Com-
8 merce and the Committee on the Judiciary of
9 the House of Representatives; and

1 (B) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
2 and Transportation and the Committee on the
3 Judiciary of the Senate;

4 (2) the term “Commission” means the Federal
5 Communications Commission;

6 (3) the terms “designated market area” and
7 “local market” have the meaning given those terms
8 in section 122(j) of title 17, United States Code; and

9 (4) the term “television broadcast station” has
10 the meaning given the term in section 325(b)(7) of
11 the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.
12 325(b)(7)).

13 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

14 (1) The telecommunications and media policy of
15 the United States has long valued localism, competi-
16 tion, and diversity of voices.

17 (2) Broadcasters play an essential role in pro-
18 viding critical emergency alerts, news, and informa-
19 tion that responds to the needs of their communities.

20 (3) Broadcast television remains an important
21 medium for reaching communities, even as techno-
22 logical innovations and new forms of communication
23 continue to expand.

24 (4) It is in the public interest to study—

1 (A) how designated market areas impact
2 access to local and in-State programming; and

3 (B) how any deficiencies in localism might
4 be addressed.

5 (c) REPORT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commis-
8 sion shall submit to the appropriate congressional
9 committees a report that contains—

10 (A) an analysis of—

11 (i) the extent to which consumers in
12 each local market have access to broadcast
13 programming from television broadcast
14 stations located outside their local market;
15 and

16 (ii)(I) whether there are alternatives
17 to the use of designated market areas to
18 define markets that would provide con-
19 sumers with more local programming op-
20 tions; and

21 (II) the potential impact the alter-
22 natives described in clause (i) could have
23 on localism and on broadcast television lo-
24 cally, regionally, and nationally; and

1 (B) recommendations on how to foster in-
2 creased localism in States served by out-of-
3 State designated market areas.

4 (2) CONSIDERATIONS FOR FOSTERING IN-
5 CREASED LOCALISM.—In making recommendations
6 under paragraph (1)(B), the Commission shall con-
7 sider—

8 (A) the impact that designated market
9 areas that cross State lines have on access to
10 local programming;

11 (B) the impact that designated market
12 areas have on local programming in rural areas;
13 and

14 (C) the state of local programming in
15 States served exclusively by out-of-State des-
16 ignated market areas.

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