

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2682

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multichannel video programming distributors to carry rural video programming, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (for himself and Mr. RUSH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multichannel video programming distributors to carry rural video programming, and for other purposes.

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 “Agricultural News and
5 Rural Content Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. CARRIAGE OF RURAL VIDEO PROGRAMMING.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Communications
8 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding
9 at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 723. CARRIAGE OF RURAL VIDEO PROGRAMMING.**

2 “(a) CARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A multichannel video pro-
4 gramming distributor with 5,000 or more sub-
5 scribers shall use at least 1 percent of the channel
6 capacity of such distributor to transmit or distribute
7 to all of the subscribers of such distributor channels
8 of video programming that predominantly serve the
9 needs and interests of rural America.

10 “(2) MANNER OF TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION.—In transmitting or distributing channels
11 under paragraph (1), a multichannel video program-
12 ming distributor shall—

14 “(A) use the same transmission or dis-
15 tribution technology that the multichannel video
16 programming distributor uses to transmit or
17 distribute the majority of the high-definition
18 channels or programs of such distributor;

19 “(B) include such channels in the most
20 basic tier or package of such distributor such
21 that every subscriber of such distributor may
22 access such channels; and

23 “(C) place such channels in an appropriate
24 news channel neighborhood.

1 “(b) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—A multichannel
2 video programming distributor that is subject to sub-
3 section (a) shall—

4 “(1) prominently display, on a publicly available
5 website, a list of the channels of video programming
6 that predominantly serve the needs and interests of
7 rural America included in the most basic tier or
8 package of such distributor; and

9 “(2) disclose the information described in para-
10 graph (1) at the point of sale.

11 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 “(1) CHANNELS OF VIDEO PROGRAMMING THAT
13 PREDOMINANTLY SERVE THE NEEDS AND INTER-
14 ESTS OF RURAL AMERICA.—The term ‘channels of
15 video programming that predominantly serve the
16 needs and interests of rural America’ means unaffili-
17 ated and independent channels on which a majority
18 of the video programming per week is dedicated to—

19 “(A) rural news and agricultural weather
20 forecasts;

21 “(B) information from the commodity mar-
22 kets (including from the Chicago Mercantile
23 Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade);

1 “(C) programming focused on rural
2 healthcare, rural development, and rural edu-
3 cation; and

4 “(D) other content relating to the needs
5 and interests of farmers and ranchers and the
6 rural lifestyle.

7 “(2) CHANNEL NEIGHBORHOOD.—The term
8 ‘channel neighborhood’ means a portion of the chan-
9 nel line-up of a multichannel video programming dis-
10 tributor, or an area on a navigation menu of such
11 a distributor, offering similar programming.

12 “(3) MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING
13 DISTRIBUTOR.—The term ‘multichannel video pro-
14 gramming distributor’ has the meaning given such
15 term in section 602.

16 “(4) UNAFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT.—The
17 term ‘unaffiliated and independent’ means, with re-
18 spect to a channel and a multichannel video pro-
19 gramming distributor, that such channel is not
20 vertically integrated with, owned or controlled by, or
21 under common ownership or control with, such dis-
22 tributor.

23 “(5) VIDEO PROGRAMMING.—The term ‘video
24 programming’ has the meaning given such term in
25 section 602.”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
2 subsection (a) shall apply beginning on the date that is
3 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

