

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4927

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit franchising authorities from requiring approval for the sale of cable systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 8, 2025

Mrs. HOUCHIN (for herself and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit franchising authorities from requiring approval for the sale of cable systems, 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 “Consumer Access to
5 Broadband for Local Economies and Competition Act” or
6 the “CABLE Competition Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. SALES OF CABLE SYSTEMS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 627 of the Communica-
9 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 547) is amended to read
10 as follows:

1 **“SEC. 627. CONDITIONS OF SALE OR TRANSFER.**

2 “(a) VALUE OF CABLE SYSTEM AFTER REVOCATION
3 OF FRANCHISE.—If a franchise held by a cable operator
4 is revoked under section 626(b)(2)(B) and the franchising
5 authority acquires ownership of the cable system or effects
6 a transfer of ownership of the system to another person,
7 any such acquisition or transfer shall be at fair market
8 value.

9 “(b) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY OF FRANCHISING
10 AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO TRANSFER OF FRAN-
11 CHISE.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A franchising authority
13 may not preclude a cable operator from transferring
14 a franchise to any person—

15 “(A) to which such franchise was not ini-
16 tially granted; and

17 “(B) with respect to the terms of the fran-
18 chise that apply to the cable operator, who
19 agrees to accept all such terms in effect at the
20 time of the transfer.

21 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—In the case of the trans-
22 fer of a franchise to a person to which such fran-
23 chise was not originally granted, a franchising au-
24 thority may require a cable operator to which a fran-
25 chise was initially granted to, not later than 15 days

1 before the transfer of the franchise, notify the fran-
2 chising authority in writing of such transfer.

3 “(3) TRANSFER OF A FRANCHISE DEFINED.—

4 In this subsection, the term ‘transfer of a franchise’
5 means the transfer or assignment of any rights
6 under a franchise through any transaction, including
7 through—

8 “(A) a merger involving the cable operator
9 or cable system;

10 “(B) a sale of the cable operator or cable
11 system;

12 “(C) an assignment of the cable operator
13 or a cable system;

14 “(D) a restructuring of a cable operator or
15 a cable system; or

16 “(E) the transfer of control of a cable op-
17 erator or a cable system.”.

18 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amend-
19 ment made by subsection (a), shall take effect 6 months
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

21 (c) APPLICATION.—This section, and the amendment
22 made by subsection (a), shall apply to a franchise grant-
23 ed—

24 (1) on or after the effective date established by
25 subsection (b); or

1 (2) before such date, if—

2 (A) such franchise (including any renewal
3 term thereof) is in effect on such date; or

4 (B) such franchise is expired and cable op-
5 erator has continued to perform under the pro-
6 visions of such franchise as if such franchise
7 were not expired.

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