

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5311

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to preserve cable franchising authority, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Ms. FEDORCHAK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to preserve cable franchising authority, 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 “Connecting And Build-  
5       ing Lines for Expedited Expansion Act” or the “CABLE  
6       Expansion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUEST REGARDING PLACEMENT, CONSTRUC-**  
2 **TION, OR MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN FACILI-**  
3 **TIES.**

4 Section 624 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
5 U.S.C. 544) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
6 lowing:

7 “(j) REQUEST REGARDING PLACEMENT, CONSTRUC-  
8 TION, OR MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES.—

9 “(1) NO AFFECT ON AUTHORITY OF FRAN-  
10 CHISING AUTHORITY.—Except as provided in para-  
11 graph (2), and notwithstanding any other provision  
12 of this section, nothing in this title shall limit or af-  
13 fect the authority of a franchising authority over de-  
14 cisions regarding the placement, construction, and  
15 modification of a covered facility within the jurisdic-  
16 tion of such franchising authority.

17 “(2) LIMITATIONS.—

18 “(A) ABILITY TO PROVIDE OR ENHANCE  
19 CABLE SERVICE.—The regulation of the place-  
20 ment, construction, or modification of a covered  
21 facility by a franchising authority shall not pro-  
22 hibit or have the effect of prohibiting the ability  
23 of a cable operator to provide cable service, or  
24 enhance cable service provided, under a fran-  
25 chise granted by such franchising authority.

1                   “(B) TIMING OF DECISIONS ON REQUESTS  
2                   FOR AUTHORIZATIONS TO PLACE, CONSTRUCT,  
3                   OR MODIFY FACILITY.—

4                   “(i) REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION  
5                   TO PLACE, CONSTRUCT, OR MODIFY FACIL-  
6                   ITY.—

7                   “(I) TIMEFRAME.—A franchising  
8                   authority shall approve or deny a  
9                   complete request for authorization to  
10                  place, construct, or modify a covered  
11                  facility not later than—

12                  “(aa) if the request is for  
13                  authorization to place, construct,  
14                  or modify a covered facility in or  
15                  on an eligible support infrastruc-  
16                  ture, 90 days after the date on  
17                  which the franchising authority  
18                  receives the request; and

19                  “(bb) if the request is not  
20                  for authorization to place, con-  
21                  struct modify a covered facility in  
22                  or on an eligible support infra-  
23                  structure, 150 days after the  
24                  date on which franchising author-  
25                  ity receives the request.

1                   “(II) APPLICABILITY.—Notwith-  
2                   standing any provision of this title,  
3                   the applicable timeframe under sub-  
4                   paragraph (A) shall apply collectively  
5                   to all proceedings required by a fran-  
6                   chising authority for the approval of  
7                   the request.

8                   “(III) NO TOLLING.—A time-  
9                   frame under subparagraph (A) may  
10                  not be tolled by any moratorium,  
11                  whether express or de facto, imposed  
12                  by a franchising authority on the con-  
13                  sideration of any request for author-  
14                  ization to place, construct, or modify  
15                  a facility for the provision of cable  
16                  service.

17                  “(IV) WRITTEN DECISION AND  
18                  RECORD.—Any decision by a fran-  
19                  chising authority to deny a complete  
20                  request for authorization to place,  
21                  construct, or modify a covered facility  
22                  shall be—

23                               “(aa) in writing;

1 “(bb) supported by substan-  
2 tial evidence contained in a writ-  
3 ten record; and

4 “(cc) publicly released, con-  
5 temporaneously with the decision.

6 “(C) WHEN REQUEST CONSIDERED COM-  
7 PLETE; RECEIVED.—

8 “(i) WHEN REQUEST CONSIDERED  
9 COMPLETE.—

10 “(I) IN GENERAL.—For the pur-  
11 poses of this subparagraph (B), a re-  
12 quest to a franchising authority shall  
13 be considered complete if the request-  
14 ing party has not received a written  
15 notice from the franchising authority  
16 within 10 business days after the date  
17 on which the request is received by  
18 the franchising authority—

19 “(aa) stating that all the in-  
20 formation (including any form or  
21 other document) required by the  
22 franchising authority to be sub-  
23 mitted for the request to be con-  
24 sidered complete has not been  
25 submitted; and

1 “(bb) identifying the infor-  
2 mation required to be submitted  
3 that was not submitted.

4 “(II) DEFINITION.—In this  
5 clause, the term ‘received by the fran-  
6 chising authority’ means—

7 “(aa) in the case of a re-  
8 quest submitted electronically, on  
9 the date on which the request is  
10 transmitted;

11 “(bb) in the case of a re-  
12 quest submitted in person, on the  
13 date on which the request is de-  
14 livered to the individual or at the  
15 location specified by the fran-  
16 chising authority for in-person  
17 submission; and

18 “(cc) in the case of a re-  
19 quest submitted in any other  
20 manner, on the date determined  
21 under regulations promulgated by  
22 the Commission for the manner  
23 in which the request is sub-  
24 mitted.

1           “(ii) WHEN COMPLETE REQUEST CON-  
2           SIDERED RECEIVED.—For the purposes of  
3           subparagraph (B), a complete request shall  
4           be considered received on the date on  
5           which the requesting party submits to the  
6           franchising authority all information (in-  
7           cluding any form or other document) re-  
8           quired by the franchising authority to be  
9           submitted for the request to be considered  
10          complete.

11         “(D) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

12                 “(i) ELIGIBLE SUPPORT INFRASTRUC-  
13                 TURE.—The term ‘eligible support infra-  
14                 structure’ means infrastructure that sup-  
15                 ports or houses a facility for communica-  
16                 tion by wire (or is designed to and capable  
17                 of supporting or housing such facility) at  
18                 the time when a complete request to a  
19                 franchising authority for authorization to  
20                 place, construct, or modify a covered facil-  
21                 ity in or on the infrastructure is received  
22                 by the franchising authority.

23                 “(ii) COVERED FACILITY.—The term  
24                 ‘covered facility’ means a facility—

1                   “(I) for the provision of cable  
2 service; and

3                   “(II) that serves subscribers  
4 using an easement or public right-of-  
5 way.”.

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