

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 888

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations with respect to rebates for certain video programming blackouts, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2025

Mr. RYAN (for himself, Mrs. McIVER, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations with respect to rebates for certain video programming blackouts, 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 “Stop Sports Blackouts
5 Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. REBATES FOR VIDEO PROGRAMMING BLACKOUTS.**

2 Title VII of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
3 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the
4 following:

5 **“SEC. 723. REBATES FOR VIDEO PROGRAMMING BLACK-**
6 **OUTS.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this section, the Commission
9 shall promulgate regulations—

10 “(1) to require a provider to issue to a sub-
11 scriber of such provider a rebate with respect to any
12 period during which the provider denies such sub-
13 scriber, as a result of a covered negotiation, access
14 to video programming that such provider agreed, at
15 the time of subscription entry or renewal (as the
16 case may be), to provide to such subscriber during
17 such period; and

18 “(2) to establish the appropriate amount of a
19 rebate issued under paragraph (1).

20 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) COVERED NEGOTIATION.—The term ‘cov-
22 ered negotiation’ means a negotiation with respect
23 to—

24 “(A) retransmission consent of a television
25 broadcast station under section 325(b); or

1 “(B) carriage of video programming of an
2 entity that is not a television broadcast station.

3 “(2) PROVIDER.—The term ‘provider’ means ei-
4 ther of the following:

5 “(A) A cable operator (as defined in sec-
6 tion 602).

7 “(B) A provider of direct broadcast sat-
8 ellite service (as defined in section 335(b)(5)).

9 “(3) TELEVISION BROADCAST STATION.—The
10 term ‘television broadcast station’ has the meaning
11 given such term in section 325(b)(7).

12 “(4) VIDEO PROGRAMMING.—The term ‘video
13 programming’ has the meaning given such term in
14 section 602.”.

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