

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 328

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 30, 2025

Mr. MURPHY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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”.

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) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) COVERED NEGOTIATION.—The term ‘cov-
9 ered negotiation’ means a negotiation with respect
10 to—

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

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

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

17 “(A) A cable operator, as defined in sec-
18 tion 602.

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

21 “(3) TELEVISION BROADCAST STATION.—The
22 term ‘television broadcast station’ has the meaning
23 given the term in section 325(b)(7).

24 “(4) VIDEO PROGRAMMING.—The term ‘video
25 programming’ has the meaning given the term in
26 section 602.

1 “(b) PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.—Not later
2 than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section,
3 the Commission shall promulgate regulations—

4 “(1) to require a provider to issue to a sub-
5 scriber of that provider a rebate with respect to any
6 period during which the provider denies that sub-
7 scriber, as a result of a covered negotiation, access
8 to video programming that such provider agreed, at
9 the time of subscription entry or renewal (as appli-
10 cable), to provide to that subscriber during that pe-
11 riod; and

12 “(2) to establish the appropriate amount of a
13 rebate issued under paragraph (1).”.

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