

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5516

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 with respect to retransmission consent and must-carry for cable operators and satellite carriers.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2002

Mr. PAUL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

---

## A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 with respect to retransmission consent and must-carry for cable operators and satellite carriers.

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 “TV Consumer Free-  
5       dom Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. RETRANSMISSION CONSENT.**

7       Section 325(b) of the Communications Act of 1934  
8       (47 U.S.C. 325(b)) is amended—

9               (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the  
10       following:

1 “(b)(1) No cable system or other multichannel video  
2 programming distributor shall retransmit the signal of a  
3 broadcasting station, or any part thereof, except with the  
4 express authority of the station.”;

5 (2) in paragraph (3)—

6 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and  
7 of the right to signal carriage under section  
8 614”;

9 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and  
10 the right to signal carriage under section 614”;  
11 and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(C) Within 45 days after the effective date of the  
14 TV Consumer Freedom Act, the Commission shall com-  
15 mence a rulemaking proceeding to revise the regulations  
16 governing the exercise by television broadcast stations of  
17 the right to grant retransmission consent under this sub-  
18 section. Such regulations shall establish election time peri-  
19 ods that correspond with those regulations adopted under  
20 subparagraph (B). The rulemaking shall be completed  
21 within 180 days after the effective date of the TV Con-  
22 sumer Freedom Act.”; and

23 (3) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5) and re-  
24 designating paragraph (6) as paragraph (4).

1 **SEC. 3. ELIMINATION OF MUST-CARRY REQUIREMENTS.**

2 (a) REPORT.—Sections 338, 614, and 615 of the  
3 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 338, 534, and  
4 535) are repealed.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

6 (1) Section 623(b)(7)(A) of the Communica-  
7 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 543(b)(7)(A)) is  
8 amended by striking clause (i) and redesignating  
9 clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (i) and (ii).

10 (2) Section 635 of the Communications Act of  
11 1934 (47 U.S.C. 555) is amended by striking sub-  
12 section (c).

13 (3) Section 653 of the Communications Act of  
14 1934 (47 U.S.C. 573) is amended—

15 (A) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by striking  
16 “614, or 615,”; and

17 (B) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking  
18 “sections 611, 614, and 615” and inserting  
19 “section 611”.

20 (4) Section 336(b)(3) of the Communications  
21 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 336(b)(3)) is amended by  
22 striking “have any rights to carriage under section  
23 614 or 615 or”.

1 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2       This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall  
3 take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

○