

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 602

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 2008

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

AN ACT

To develop the next generation of parental control
technology.

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 “Child Safe Viewing
5 Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Video programming has a direct impact on
4 a child's perception of safe and reasonable behavior.

5 (2) Children may imitate actions they witness
6 on video programming, including language, drug
7 use, and sexual conduct.

8 (3) Studies suggest that the strong appeal of
9 video programming erodes the ability of parents to
10 develop responsible attitudes and behavior in their
11 children.

12 (4) The average American child watches 4
13 hours of television each day.

14 (5) 99.9 percent of all consumer complaints
15 logged by the Federal Communications Commission
16 in the first quarter of 2006 regarding radio and tele-
17 vision broadcasting were because of obscenity, inde-
18 cency, and profanity.

19 (6) There is a compelling government interest
20 in empowering parents to limit their children's expo-
21 sure to harmful television content.

22 (7) Section 1 of the Communications Act of
23 1934 requires the Federal Communications Commis-
24 sion to promote the safety of life and property
25 through the use of wire and radio communications.

1 (8) In the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
2 Congress authorized Parental Choice in Television
3 Programming and the V-Chip. Congress further di-
4 rected action on alternative blocking technology as
5 new video technology advanced.

6 **SEC. 3. EXAMINATION OF ADVANCED BLOCKING TECH-**
7 **NOLOGIES AND EXISTING PARENTAL EM-**
8 **POWERMENT TOOLS.**

9 (a) INQUIRY REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days
10 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Com-
11 munications Commission shall initiate a notice of inquiry
12 to consider measures to examine—

13 (1) the existence and availability of advanced
14 blocking technologies that are compatible with var-
15 ious communications devices or platforms;

16 (2) methods of encouraging the development,
17 deployment, and use of such technology by parents
18 that do not affect the packaging or pricing of a con-
19 tent provider’s offering; and

20 (3) the existence, availability, and use of paren-
21 tal empowerment tools and initiatives already in the
22 market.

23 (b) CONTENT OF PROCEEDING.—In conducting the
24 inquiry required under subsection (a), the Commission
25 shall consider advanced blocking technologies that—

1 (1) may be appropriate across a wide variety of
2 distribution platforms, including wired, wireless, and
3 Internet platforms;

4 (2) may be appropriate across a wide variety of
5 devices capable of transmitting or receiving video or
6 audio programming, including television sets, DVD
7 players, VCRs, cable set top boxes, satellite receivers,
8 and wireless devices;

9 (3) can filter language based upon information
10 in closed captioning;

11 (4) operate independently of ratings pre-assigned
12 by the creator of such video or audio programming; and
13 programming; and

14 (5) may be effective in enhancing the ability of
15 a parent to protect his or her child from indecent or
16 objectionable programming, as determined by such
17 parent.

18 (c) REPORTING.—Not later than 270 days after the
19 enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue a report
20 to Congress detailing any findings resulting from the inquiry
21 required under subsection (a).

22 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “advanced
23 blocking technologies” means technologies that can
24 improve or enhance the ability of a parent to protect his
25 or her child from any indecent or objectionable video or

1 audio programming, as determined by such parent, that
2 is transmitted through the use of wire, wireless, or radio
3 communication.

Passed the Senate October 1 (legislative day, September 17), 2008.

Attest:

NANCY ERICKSON,

Secretary.