H. R. 3994

To repeal certain provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, title 17 of the United States Code, and certain regulations, to allow for interim carriage of television broadcast signals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2019

Mr. Scalise (for himself and Ms. Eshoo) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

A BILL

To repeal certain provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, title 17 of the United States Code, and certain regulations, to allow for interim carriage of television broadcast signals, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Modern Television Act of 2019”.

1
2
3
4
5
SEC. 2. AGREEMENTS FOR CARRIAGE OF BROADCAST PROGRAMMING.

(a) AGREEMENTS FOR CARRIAGE OF BROADCAST PROGRAMMING.—Section 325 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)(C)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting “; and”;

(B) by striking clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv);

and

(C) by redesignating clause (v) as clause (ii); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) REQUIREMENTS FOR MARKETPLACE AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) NEGOTIATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Modern Television Act of 2019, the Commission shall, by regulation—

“(i) require a television broadcast station and multichannel video programming distributor (and any large station group or qualified MVPD buying group negotiating for a marketplace agreement on behalf of a television broadcast station or multi-
channel video programming distributor, respectively) to negotiate in good faith in any effort to reach a marketplace agreement; and

“(ii) prohibit a television broadcast station from coordinating negotiations or negotiating on a joint basis with another television broadcast station in the same local market in an effort to reach a marketplace agreement with a multichannel video programming distributor, unless such stations are directly or indirectly under common de jure control permitted under the regulations of the Commission.

“(B) GOOD FAITH REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations promulgated under paragraph (1)(A) shall provide—

“(i) that it is a violation of the requirement under paragraph (1)(A)(i)—

“(I) for a multichannel video programming distributor, a qualified MVPD buying group, a television broadcast station, or a large station group to refuse to declare an impasse for the sole purpose of avoiding bind-
ing arbitration under subsection (g), as added by the Modern Television Act of 2019; or

“(II) for a large station group to prohibit a qualified MVPD buying group from permitting a multichannel video programming distributor with which the large station group has an existing marketplace agreement to join a new marketplace agreement negotiated by the large station group and the qualified MVPD buying group upon the expiration of the existing marketplace agreement, if the multichannel video programming distributor was unable to join the new marketplace agreement at the time of the execution of the agreement because of the existing marketplace agreement;

“(ii) that is not a violation of the requirement under paragraph (1)(A)(i)—

“(I) for a television broadcast station or large station group to enter into marketplace agreements con-
taining different terms and conditions, including price terms and royalty fees, with different multichannel video programming distributors or with different qualified MVPD buying groups if such different terms and conditions are based on competitive marketplace considerations; or

“(II) for a multichannel video programming distributor or a qualified MVPD buying group to enter into marketplace agreements containing different terms and conditions, including price terms and royalty fees, with different television broadcast stations or with different large station groups if such different terms and conditions are based on competitive marketplace considerations;

“(iii) that a multichannel video programming distributor may satisfy its obligations under paragraph (1)(A)(i) by designating a qualified MVPD buying group to negotiate on its behalf, so long as the
qualified MVPD buying group itself negotiates in good faith; and

“(iv) that a qualified MVPD buying group may satisfy any obligations under paragraph (1)(A)(i) to designate a representative with authority to make binding representations by designating such a representative that can make binding representations on the qualified MVPD buying group’s behalf.

“(2) INTERIM CARRIAGE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Modern Television Act of 2019, the Commission shall, by regulation, require a multichannel video programming distributor to retransmit a signal of a television broadcast station and the television broadcast station to permit the retransmission of that signal—

“(A) for a period not longer than 60 days beginning on the date on which a marketplace agreement entered into by the television broadcast station and the multichannel video programming distributor (or by any large station group or qualified MVPD buying group negotiating for a marketplace agreement on behalf of a television broadcast station or multichannel
video programming distributor, respectively) expires; and

“(B) under the terms and conditions of such expired agreement.

“(3) Retroactivity of marketplace agreement.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Modern Television Act of 2019, the Commission shall require, by regulation, each marketplace agreement entered into on or after such date of enactment by a television broadcast station and a multichannel video programming distributor (or by any large station group or qualified MVPD buying group negotiating for a marketplace agreement on behalf of a television broadcast station or multichannel video programming distributor, respectively) to include a clause making the terms of the agreement retroactive to the expiration date of the most recent marketplace agreement entered into by or on behalf of the station and the distributor if the station and the distributor—

“(A) had previously entered into a marketplace agreement; and

“(B) are required to retransmit a signal or permit the retransmission of a signal, as the case may be, under paragraph (2) or subsection
(g), as added by the Modern Television Act of 2019.

“(4) Prohibition on requiring certain payments.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Modern Television Act of 2019, the Commission shall, by regulation, prohibit a television broadcast station from requiring payment, either directly or indirectly, from a multi-channel video programming distributor for customers of the multichannel video programming distributor who do not receive the signals of the television broadcast station from that distributor.

“(5) Limitation.—The requirements under this subsection do not apply with respect to mandatory carriage of the signal of a television broadcast station that elects mandatory carriage under section 338, 614, or 615.

“(6) Definitions.—In this subsection:

“(A) Large station group.—The term ‘large station group’ means a group—

“(i) of commonly owned or controlled television broadcast stations that generally negotiate marketplace agreements as a single entity; and
“(ii) which includes, with respect to at least five different local markets, at least one television broadcast station ranked among the top four stations, based on audience share, as measured by Nielsen Media Research or by any comparable professional, accepted audience ratings service.

“(B) LOCAL MARKET.—The term ‘local market’ has the meaning given that term in section 122 of title 17, United States Code.

“(C) MARKETPLACE AGREEMENT.—The term ‘marketplace agreement’ means an agreement, or agreements, for—

“(i) the exclusive right under section 106 of title 17, United States Code, to transmit a performance or display of a work embodied in primary transmission (as defined in section 111(f) of such title) of a television broadcast station and the royalty fee payable; or

“(ii) retransmission consent under subsection (b), as in effect before the repeal made by the Modern Television Act of 2019.
“(D) MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING DISTRIBUTOR.—The term ‘multichannel video programming distributor’ has the meaning given the term in section 602.

“(E) QUALIFIED MVPD BUYING GROUP.—The term ‘qualified MVPD buying group’ means an entity, with respect to a large station group, that—

“(i) has been designated to negotiate on behalf of two or more multichannel video programming distributors—

“(I) none of which is a multichannel video programming distributor that serves more than 5,000,000 subscribers nationally; and

“(II) that do not collectively serve more than 35 percent of all households served by a multichannel video programming distributor in any single local market in which the applicable large station group operates;

“(ii) agrees to assume liability under a marketplace agreement only with respect to forwarding to the appropriate television broadcast station or large station group for
payment all fees received from the multi-
channel video programming distributors on
behalf of which the entity negotiates;
“(iii) uniformly bills each multi-
channel video programming distributor on
behalf of which the entity negotiates;
“(iv) agrees to standardized contract
provisions for each multichannel video pro-
gramming distributor on behalf of which
the entity negotiates; and
“(v) agrees either collectively or indi-
vidually on reasonable technical quality
standards for each multichannel video pro-
gramming distributor on behalf of which
the entity negotiates.
“(F) Television broadcast station.—
The term ‘television broadcast station’ means
an over-the-air commercial or noncommercial
television broadcast station licensed by the
Commission under subpart E of part 73 of title
47, Code of Federal Regulations, except that
such term does not include a low-power or
translator television station.”.
(b) Effective date.—This section, and the amend-
ments made by this section, shall take effect on the date
that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF REGULATORY INTERVENTION IN THE TELEVISION MARKETPLACE UNDER THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.

(a) REPEAL.—The following sections of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) are hereby repealed:

(1) Section 325(b) (47 U.S.C. 325(b)).
(2) Section 325(e) (47 U.S.C. 325(e)).
(7) Section 612 (47 U.S.C. 532).

(b) ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION 338.—Section 338 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 338) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by inserting “or under a marketplace agreement (as that term is defined in section 325),” after “Code,”; and
(II) by striking ‘‘, subject to section 325(b)’’;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking ‘‘501(f)’’ each place it appears and inserting ‘‘501(e)’’;

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking ‘‘whose signals’’ and all that follows through ‘‘of title 17, United States Code,’’; and

(II) by inserting ‘‘or a marketplace agreement’’ after ‘‘such title’’;

(iv) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) NONDISCRIMINATION IN CARRIAGE OF HIGH-DEFINITION SIGNALS OF NONCOMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION STATIONS.—If, on or after the date of enactment of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010, an eligible satellite carrier initiates the provision of any secondary transmission in high-definition format to subscribers located within the local market of a television broadcast station of a primary transmission made by that station, then such satellite carrier shall carry the signals in high-definition format of all
qualified noncommercial educational television stations located within that local market.”; and

(v) by striking paragraph (5);

(B) in subsection (d), by inserting “seeking carriage under subsection (a)(1)” after “signal of a local television broadcast station”;

(C) by striking subsection (h);

(D) by redesignating subsections (i), (j), (k), and (l) as subsections (h), (i), (j), and (k), respectively;

(E) in subsection (j), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking paragraph (1);

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), and (10) as paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), and (9), respectively;

(iii) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by striking “122(j)” and inserting “122(g)”;

(iv) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by striking “119(d)” and inserting “111(f)”;

(v) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated, by striking “119(d)” and inserting “111(f)”;}
(vi) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated, by striking “122(j)” and inserting “122(g)”; and
(vii) in paragraph (9), as so redesignated, by striking “325(b)(7)” and inserting “325”; and
(F) in subsection (k), as so redesignated, by striking paragraph (5).
(2) SECTION 623.—Section 623 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 543) is amended—
(A) by striking subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), and (o);
(B) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively; and
(C) by adding at the end the following:
“(c) REGULATION OF RATES AND BROADCAST SIGNAL CARRIAGE.—No Federal agency, State, or franchising authority may regulate—
“(1) the rates for the provision of the service of a multichannel video programming distributor; or
“(2) the retransmission of television broadcast signals by a multichannel video programming distributor except in accordance with the requirements of sections 325, 338, 614, and 615.”.
(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
(1) **Section 343.**—Section 343 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 343) is redesignated as section 339 of such Act.

(2) **Section 615.**—Section 615 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 535) is amended—

   (A) by striking subsection (f); and

   (B) in subsection (l), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

   “(1) **QUALIFIED NONCOMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION STATION.**—

   “(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘qualified noncommercial educational television station’ means any full-power television broadcast station which—

   “(i) under the rules and regulations of the Commission in effect on March 29, 1990, is licensed by the Commission as a noncommercial educational television broadcast station and is owned and operated by a public agency, nonprofit foundation, nonprofit corporation, or nonprofit association; or

   “(ii) is owned and operated by a municipality and transmits predominantly
noncommercial programs for educational purposes.

“(B) Inclusions.—Such term includes—

“(i) the translator of any noncommercial educational television station with five watts or higher power serving the franchise area;

“(ii) a full-service station or translator if such station or translator is licensed to a channel reserved for noncommercial educational use pursuant to section 73.606 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulations thereto; and

“(iii) such stations and translators operating on channels not so reserved as the Commission determines are qualified as noncommercial educational stations.”.

(3) Section 621.—Section 621(b)(3)(D) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 541(b)(3)(D)) is amended by striking “sections 611 and 612” and inserting “section 611”.

(4) Section 622.—Section 622(c) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 542(c)) is amended by striking “pursuant to section 623”.

•HR 3994 IH
(5) **SECTION 625.**—Section 625 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 545) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking “rearrange, replace,” and inserting “replace”;

(ii) in paragraph (1), by striking “; or” and inserting a period;

(iii) by striking paragraph (2); and

(iv) by striking “franchise if—” and all that follows through “such service is no longer” and inserting “franchise if such service is no longer”; and

(B) in subsection (d), by striking “, if the rates” and all that follows and inserting a period.

(6) **SECTION 632.**—Section 632(c) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 552(c)) is amended by striking “section 623(b)(6) or”.

(7) **SECTION 638.**—Section 638 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 558) is amended by striking “governmental use or on any other channel obtained under section 612 or under similar arrangements” and inserting “or governmental use”.

(8) **SECTION 653.**—Section 653 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 573) is amended—
(A) in subsection (b)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by adding “and” at the end; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (D) and redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D); and

(B) in subsection (c)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “(other than subsection (a) thereof)”; and

(II) by striking “623(f)” and inserting “623(b)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “, and section 325 of title III,”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by striking “sections 612 and 617” and inserting “section 617”; and

(II) by striking “623(f)” and inserting “623(b)”.

SEC. 4. BINDING ARBITRATION.

Section 325 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by sections 2 and 3, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) BINDING ARBITRATION.—
“(1) Requirement.—Beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date on which this subsection takes effect, the Commission shall, by regulation—

“(A) provide that the Commission may require a television broadcast station and multichannel video programming distributor negotiating a marketplace agreement (and any large station group or qualified MVPD buying group negotiating for a marketplace agreement on behalf of a television broadcast station or multichannel video programming distributor, respectively) to submit to binding arbitration—

“(i) upon—

“(I) a declaration of an impasse in negotiations by all parties negotiating the agreement;

“(II) a preliminary finding by the Commission of a violation of the good faith requirement under subsection (f)(1)(A)(i); or

“(III) the failure of the television broadcast station and multichannel programming distributor (or any large station group or qualified MVPD buy-
ing group negotiating for a marketplace agreement on behalf of a television broadcast station or multichannel video programming distributor, respectively) to reach a marketplace agreement by the date that is 60 days after the date on which a marketplace agreement entered into by the television broadcast station and the multichannel video programming distributor (or by any large station group or qualified MVPD buying group negotiating for a marketplace agreement on behalf of a television broadcast station or multichannel video programming distributor, respectively) expires; and

“(ii) in a form substantially similar to that imposed in Section VII of Appendix A of the Memorandum Opinion and Order in the matter of Applications of Comcast Corporation, General Electric Company, and NBC Universal, Inc. For Consent to Assign Licenses and Transfer Control of Licensees that was adopted by the Commis-
tion on January 18, 2011 (FCC 11–4);
and
“(B) provide that the Commission may re-
quire a multichannel video programming dis-
tributor to retransmit a signal of a television
broadcast station and the television broadcast
station to permit the retransmission of that sig-

“(i) during any period in which the
television broadcast station and the multi-
channel video programming distributor (or
any large station group or qualified MVPD
buying group negotiating for a marketplace
agreement on behalf of a television broad-
cast station or multichannel video pro-
gramming distributor, respectively) are re-
quired to submit to binding arbitration
under subparagraph (A); and
“(ii) in accordance with the interim
carriage provisions imposed in Section VII
of Appendix A of the Memorandum Opin-
ion and Order described under subpara-
graph (A)(ii).
“(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the
terms ‘large station group’, ‘marketplace agreement’,
‘multichannel video programming distributor’, ‘qualified MVPD buying group’, and ‘television broadcast station’ have the meaning given those terms in subsection (f).

SEC. 5. REPEAL OF REGULATORY INTERVENTION IN THE COPYRIGHT ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 119 of title 17, United States Code, is hereby repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1 of title 17, United States Code, is amended by striking the item related to section 119.

(b) SECTION 111.—Section 111 of title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking “section 119 or”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “broadcast station licensed by the Federal Communications Commission or by an appropriate governmental authority of Canada or Mexico” and inserting “qualified broadcast station” each place it appears; and
(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “where the carriage” and all that follows before the period at the end;

(3) in subsection (d)(1)(A), by striking the second sentence; and

(4) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking “122(j)(2)(C)” and inserting “122(g)(2)(C)”;

and

(B) by adding at the end, the following:

“(14) QUALIFIED BROADCAST STATION.—The term ‘qualified broadcast station’ means a broadcast station licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, or by an appropriate governmental authority of Canada or Mexico, that elects mandatory carriage under section 614 or 615 of the Communications Act of 1934.

“(15) SATELLITE CARRIER.—The term ‘satellite carrier’ means an entity that uses the facilities of a satellite or satellite service licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and operates in the Fixed-Satellite Service or the Direct Broadcast Satellite Service under part 25 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, to establish and operate a channel of communications for point-to-multipoint
distribution of television station signals, and that
owns or leases a capacity or service on a satellite in
order to provide such point-to-multipoint distribu-
tion, except to the extent that such entity provides
such distribution pursuant to tariff under the Com-
munications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.),
other than for private home viewing.”.

(c) **SECTION 122.**—Section 122 of title 17, United
States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “television broadcast stations”
each place it appears and inserting “qualified tele-
vision broadcast stations”;

(2) by striking “television broadcast station”
each place it appears and inserting “qualified tele-
vision broadcast station”;

(3) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
the semicolon at the end and inserting “;
and”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph
(C) as subparagraph (B);

(B) by striking paragraphs (2), (3), and
(5);
(C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (2); and

(D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking “SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS.—A secondary transmission of a performance or display” and all that follows through “In the case of a system” and inserting “SPECIAL EXCEPTION.—In the case of a system”;

(4) by striking subsections (b), (f ), and (g);

(5) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), (e), (h), (i), and (j) as subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g), respectively;

(6) in subsection (c), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “television broadcast station” each place it appears and inserting “qualified television broadcast station”;

(B) by striking “television broadcast signals” and inserting “signal of a qualified television broadcast stations”; and

(C) by striking “, if the satellite carrier” and all that follows before the period at the end;

(7) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by striking “television broadcast station” each place it
appears and inserting “qualified television broadcast station”;

(8) in subsection (f), as so redesignated, by striking “and section 119”; and

(9) in subsection (g), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking “338(l)” and inserting “338(k)”;

(B) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) NETWORK STATION.—The term ‘network station’ means—

“(A) a television station licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, including any translator station or terrestrial satellite station that rebroadcasts all or substantially all of the programming broadcast by a network station, that is owned or operated by, or affiliated with, one or more of the television networks in the United States that offer an interconnected program service on a regular basis for 15 or more hours per week to at least 25 of its affiliated television licensees in 10 or more States; or
“(B) a noncommercial educational broadcast station (as defined in section 397 of the Communications Act of 1934); except that the term does not include the signal of the Alaska Rural Communications Service, or any successor entity to that service.”;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively;

(D) by inserting after paragraph (4), the following:

“(5) NON-NETWORK STATION.—The term ‘non-network station’ means a television station, other than a network station, licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, that is secondarily transmitted by a satellite carrier.”; and

(E) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated—

(i) in the heading, by striking “TELEVISION BROADCAST STATION” and inserting “QUALIFIED TELEVISION BROADCAST STATION”;  

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, that elects mandatory carriage pursuant to section 338 of the Communications Act of 1934” after “Regulations”; and
(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by inserting “that elects mandatory carriage pursuant to section 338 of the Communications Act of 1934,” after “Mexico”; and

(II) by striking “as defined in section 119(d)(2)(A)”.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 501—

(A) by striking “local service area” each place it appears and inserting “designated market area”;

(B) by striking subsection (e);

(C) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e); and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) In this section, the term ‘designated market area’ means a designated market area, as determined by Nielsen Media Research and published in the 1999–2000 Nielsen Station Index Directory and Nielsen Station Index United States Television Household Estimates or any successor publication.”;

(2) in section 708(a)(10), by striking “119 or”;

(3) in section 801—
(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “119,”; and
(B) by striking “, 119,” each place it appears;
(4) in section 803—
(A) in subsection (b)(1)(A)(i), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “, 119”;
(B) in subsection (d)(2)(C)(i), by striking “, 119”; and
(C) in subsection (e)(2), by striking “118, or 119” and inserting “or 118”; and
(5) in section 804—
(A) in subsection (a), by striking “, 119”;
and
(B) in subsection (b)(8), by striking “, 119.”.

SEC. 6. REPEAL OF COMMISSION’S RULES RELATED TO REGULATORY INTERVENTION.
The Federal Communications Commission shall take all actions necessary to—
(1) repeal section 73.658 of the Commission’s rules (47 CFR 73.658);
(2) repeal subpart F of part 76 of the Commission’s rules; and
(3) modify subpart S of part 76 of the Commission’s rules by eliminating any requirements relating to network nonduplication and syndicated exclusivity for open video systems.

SEC. 7. REPORT.

Section 13 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 163) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) if the Commission determines under subsection (e)(2) that the totality of the measurements have presented a net negative impact in the two years preceding the report, include specific policies to improve market functioning.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY.—

“(1) STUDY.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of the Modern Television Act of 2019, and every two years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with the Commission, shall study the effect of the
regime established under such Act, and the amend-
ments made by such Act, by measuring—

“(A) the price consumers pay for video
programming, adjusted to reflect national mon-
etary inflation or deflation;

“(B) the satisfaction of consumers with
the quality of video programming and the serv-
ices of multichannel video programming dis-
tributors;

“(C) the—

“(i) number of interruptions to the
distribution of programming to consumers
because of impasses in negotiations be-
tween multichannel video programming
distributors and television broadcast sta-
tions;

“(ii) duration of each interruption;
and

“(iii) number of consumers impacted
by each interruption; and

“(D) consumer access to local pro-
gramming, including news, weather, sports, and pub-
lic, educational, and governmental program-
ning.
“(2) Determination by Commission.—The Commission shall determine under the study described in paragraph (1) if the totality of the measurements described in such paragraph present a net positive, net negative, or indeterminate impact to consumers and to the marketplace.

“(3) Definitions.—In this subsection, the terms ‘video programming’ and ‘multichannel video programming distributor’ have the meaning given those terms in section 602.”.

SEC. 8. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act, or any application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of the provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and the application of the provision or amendment to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected.

SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as provided in section 2, this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that is 42 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.