

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7336

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit franchising authorities from requiring approval for the sale of cable systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2020

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

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit franchising authorities from requiring approval for the sale of cable systems, 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 “Consumer Access to
5 Broadband for Local Economies and Competition Act” or
6 the “CABLE Competition Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. SALES OF CABLE SYSTEMS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 621 of the Communica-
9 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 541) is amended by adding
10 at the end the following:

1 “(g)(1) A franchising authority may not—

2 “(A) preclude a cable operator from transfer-
3 ring a franchise to a person to which such franchise
4 was not initially granted; or

5 “(B) require a cable operator to which a fran-
6 chise is initially granted to receive approval from the
7 franchising authority for the transfer of such fran-
8 chise to a person who to which such franchise was
9 not initially granted.

10 “(2) In the case of the transfer of a franchise to a
11 person to which such franchise was not originally granted,
12 a franchising authority may require a cable operator to
13 which a franchise was initially granted to, not later than
14 15 days after a transfer of a franchise, notify the fran-
15 chising authority in writing of such transfer.

16 “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘transfer’ means the
17 assignment rights under a franchise through any trans-
18 action, including a merger, sale, assignment, restruc-
19 turing, or transfer of control of a cable operator or a cable
20 system.”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amend-
22 ment made by subsection (a), shall take effect 6 months
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (c) APPLICATION.—This section, and the amendment
2 made by subsection (a) shall apply to a franchise grant-
3 ed—

4 (1) on or after the effective date established by
5 subsection (b); or

6 (2) before such date, if such franchise (includ-
7 ing any renewal term thereof) is in effect on such
8 date.

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