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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to preserve cable franchising authority, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LONG introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to preserve cable franchising authority, 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 “Cable Access for  
5 Broadband and Local Economic Leadership Act” or the  
6 “CABLE Leadership Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUEST FOR NEW FRANCHISE.**

2 Section 621 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
3 U.S.C. 541) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 “(g) **TIMING OF DECISION ON REQUEST FOR FRAN-**  
6 **CHISE.**—

7 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days  
8 after the date on which a franchising authority re-  
9 ceives a complete request for the grant of a fran-  
10 chise (other than a renewal thereof), the franchising  
11 authority shall approve or deny such request.

12 “(2) **DEEMED GRANT OF NEW FRANCHISE.**—If  
13 the franchising authority does not approve or deny  
14 a request under paragraph (1) by the day after the  
15 date on which the time period ends under such para-  
16 graph, such request shall be deemed granted on such  
17 day.

18 “(3) **APPLICABILITY.**—Notwithstanding any  
19 provision of this title, the timeframe under para-  
20 graph (1) shall apply collectively to all proceedings  
21 required by a franchising authority for the approval  
22 of the request.

23 “(4) **NO TOLLING.**—A timeframe under para-  
24 graph (1) may not be tolled by any moratorium,  
25 whether express or de facto, imposed by a fran-

1 chising authority on the consideration of any request  
2 for a franchise.

3 “(5) WRITTEN DECISION AND RECORD.—Any  
4 decision by a franchising authority to deny a com-  
5 plete request for a franchise shall be—

6 “(A) in writing;

7 “(B) supported by substantial evidence  
8 contained in a written record; and

9 “(C) publicly released, contemporaneously  
10 with the decision.

11 “(6) WHEN REQUEST CONSIDERED COMPLETE;  
12 RECEIVED.—

13 “(A) WHEN REQUEST CONSIDERED COM-  
14 PLETE.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes  
16 of this subsection, a request to a fran-  
17 chising authority shall be considered com-  
18 plete if the requesting party has not re-  
19 ceived a written notice from the fran-  
20 chising authority within 10 business days  
21 after the date on which the request is re-  
22 ceived by the franchising authority—

23 “(I) stating that all the informa-  
24 tion (including any form or other doc-  
25 ument) required by the franchising

1 authority to be submitted for the re-  
2 quest to be considered complete has  
3 not been submitted; and

4 “(II) identifying the information  
5 required to be submitted that was not  
6 submitted.

7 “(ii) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph,  
8 the term ‘received by the franchising au-  
9 thority’ means—

10 “(I) in the case of a request sub-  
11 mitted electronically, on the date on  
12 which the request is transmitted;

13 “(II) in the case of a request  
14 submitted in person, on the date on  
15 which the request is delivered to the  
16 individual or at the location specified  
17 by franchising authority for in-person  
18 submission; and

19 “(III) in the case of a request  
20 submitted in any other manner, on  
21 the date determined under regulations  
22 promulgated by the Commission for  
23 the manner in which the request is  
24 submitted.

1                   “(B) WHEN COMPLETE REQUEST CONSID-  
2                   ERED RECEIVED.—For the purposes of this  
3                   subsection, a complete request shall be consid-  
4                   ered received on the date on which the request-  
5                   ing party submits to the franchising authority  
6                   all information (including any form or other  
7                   document) required by the franchising authority  
8                   to be submitted for the request to be considered  
9                   complete.”.