

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2813

To authorize States to regulate the rates for cable television service and to impose a one-year moratorium on increases in such rates.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2001

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. LEE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. STARK, and Mrs. THURMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To authorize States to regulate the rates for cable television service and to impose a one-year moratorium on increases in such rates.

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 TV Consumers
5 Protection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STATE AUTHORITY TO REGULATE CABLE SERVICE**
2 **RATES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 623 of the Communica-
4 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 543) is amended to read
5 as follows:

6 **“SEC. 623. STATE REGULATION OF RATES.**

7 “(a) STATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—To the ex-
8 tent provided under the laws of a State, the rates charged
9 for the provision of cable service in the State shall be sub-
10 ject to regulation by the State.

11 “(b) PROHIBITION OF FEDERAL REGULATION.—Nei-
12 ther the Commission nor any other Federal agency may
13 regulate the rates for the provision of cable service.”.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 621(c) of
15 the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 541(c)) is
16 amended by striking “Any” and inserting “Except as pro-
17 vided in section 623(a) (relating to rates for cable service),
18 any”.

19 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments under this
20 section shall take effect upon the expiration of the one-
21 year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this
22 Act.

23 **SEC. 3. 1-YEAR MORATORIUM ON CABLE SERVICE RATE IN-**
24 **CREASES.**

25 (a) IN GENERAL.—Within 10 days after the date
26 of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications

1 Commission shall by order prohibit any cable operator
2 from imposing or collecting any increase in the rates for
3 basic cable service or for cable programming services
4 above the rate that is in effect for such service on such
5 date of enactment. Such order shall remain in effect only
6 during the one-year period beginning on the date of the
7 enactment of this Act.

8 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

9 (1) the terms “cable operator” and “basic cable
10 service” have the meanings given such terms in sec-
11 tion 602 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
12 U.S.C. 522); and

13 (2) the term “cable programming service” has
14 the meaning given such term in section 623(l) of the
15 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 543(l)).

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