

Public Law 110–459
110th Congress

An Act

To require the Federal Communications Commission to provide for a short-term extension of the analog television broadcasting authority so that essential public safety announcements and digital television transition information may be provided for a short time during the transition to digital television broadcasting.

Dec. 23, 2008
[S. 3663]

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 “Short-term Analog Flash and Emergency Readiness Act”.

Short-term
Analog Flash
and Emergency
Readiness Act.
47 USC 309 note.

SEC. 2. COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED.

(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Federal Communications Commission shall, not later than January 15, 2009, develop and implement a program to encourage and permit, to the extent technically feasible and subject to such limitations as the Commission finds to be consistent with the public interest and the requirements of this Act, the broadcasting in the analog television service of only the public safety information and digital transition information specified in subsection (b) during the 30-day period beginning on the day after the date established by law under section 3002(b) of the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 for termination of all licenses for full-power television stations in the analog television service and the cessation of broadcasting by full-power stations in the analog television service.

Deadline.

(b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The program required by subsection (a) shall provide for the broadcast of—

(1) emergency information, including critical details regarding the emergency, as broadcast or required to be broadcast by full-power stations in the digital television service;

(2) information, in both English and Spanish, and accessible to persons with disabilities, concerning—

(A) the digital television transition, including the fact that a transition has taken place and that additional action is required to continue receiving television service, including emergency notifications; and

(B) the steps required to enable viewers to receive such emergency information via the digital television service and to convert to receiving digital television service, including a phone number and Internet address by which help with such transition may be obtained in both English and Spanish; and

(3) such other information related to consumer education about the digital television transition or public health and safety or emergencies as the Commission may find to be consistent with the public interest.

SEC. 3. LIMITATIONS.

In designing the program required by this Act, the Commission shall—

(1) take into account market-by-market needs, based upon factors such as channel and transmitter availability;

(2) ensure that broadcasting of the program specified in section 2(b) will not cause harmful interference with signals in the digital television service;

(3) not require the analog television service signals broadcast under this Act to be retransmitted or otherwise carried pursuant to section 325(b), 338, 339, 340, 614, or 615 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b), 338, 339, 340, 614, or 615);

(4) take into consideration broadcasters' digital power levels and transition and coordination plans that already have been adopted with respect to cable systems and satellite carriers' systems;

(5) prohibit any broadcast of analog television service signals under section 2(b) on any spectrum that is approved or pending approval by the Commission to be used for public safety radio services, including television channels 14-20; and

(6) not include the analog spectrum between channels 52 and 69, inclusive (between frequencies 698 and 806 megahertz, inclusive) reclaimed from analog television broadcasting pursuant to section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)).

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act, the term “emergency information” has the meaning such term has under part 79 of the regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (47 C.F.R. part 79).

Approved December 23, 2008.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 3663:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 154 (2008):

Nov. 20, considered and passed Senate.

Dec. 10, considered and passed House.