

HR 501

Fairness and Accountability in Broadcasting Act

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Feb 1, 2005

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. (Feb 25, 2005)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/501>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-28]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (23 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Filner, Bob [D-CA-51]	D · CA		Feb 1, 2005
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		Feb 1, 2005
Rep. Hinchey, Maurice D. [D-NY-22]	D · NY		Feb 1, 2005
Rep. Holt, Rush [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Feb 1, 2005
Rep. Kucinich, Dennis J. [D-OH-10]	D · OH		Feb 1, 2005
Rep. McDermott, Jim [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Feb 1, 2005
Rep. Miller, George [D-CA-7]	D · CA		Feb 1, 2005
Rep. Owens, Major R. [D-NY-11]	D · NY		Feb 1, 2005
Rep. Rangel, Charles B. [D-NY-15]	D · NY		Feb 1, 2005
Rep. Watson, Diane E. [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Feb 1, 2005
Rep. Woolsey, Lynn C. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Feb 1, 2005
Rep. Jackson-Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Feb 17, 2005
Rep. Case, Ed [D-HI-2]	D · HI		May 5, 2005
Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-25]	D · TX		May 5, 2005
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		May 5, 2005
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-17]	D · OH		May 5, 2005
Rep. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT-At Large]	I · VT		May 5, 2005
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		May 5, 2005
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-16]	D · CA		Nov 4, 2005
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-9]	D · CA		Nov 16, 2005
Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1]	D · MO		Nov 17, 2005
Rep. Payne, Donald M. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Dec 6, 2005
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-14]	D · MI		Dec 16, 2005

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 25, 2005

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Feb 1, 2005)

Fairness and Accountability in Broadcasting Act - Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from issuing or renewing any license for a broadcasting station based upon a finding that the issuance or renewal serves the public interest, convenience, and necessity unless such station: (1) covers issues of importance to the local community in a fair manner, taking into account diverse interests and viewpoints of the local community; (2) holds two public hearings each year in the local community to ascertain the needs and interests of the local communities that they serve; and (3) documents and reports in writing, on a biannual basis to the FCC, the programming that is broadcast to cover the issues of public importance as ascertained through the hearings process, and how such coverage reflects the diverse interests and viewpoints in the local community.

Allows any interested person to file a petition with the FCC to deny a license renewal for a broadcast station's failure to follow the above requirements.

Reduces from eight to four years the term of a broadcast license.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 25, 2005:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.
- **Feb 1, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 1, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 1, 2005:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.