

S 2607

DTV Transition Assistance Act

**Congress:** 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Science, Technology, Communications

**Introduced:** Feb 7, 2008

**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 110-295.

**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 110-295. (Jul 30, 2008)

**Law:** 110-295 (Enacted Jul 30, 2008)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/2607>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** ME • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Stevens, Ted [R-AK]	R · AK		Feb 28, 2008
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 31, 2008
Sen. Smith, Gordon H. [R-OR]	R · OR		Mar 31, 2008
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Apr 1, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jun 10, 2008
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 20, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 5696	Identical bill	<b>Apr 4, 2008:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.

**(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the Senate on June 19, 2008. The summary of that version is repeated here.)**

DTV Transition Assistance Act - Amends the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 (title III of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005) with respect to the low-power television and translator digital-to-analog conversion program.

Requires the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information of the Department of Commerce to determine whether the full amounts provided from the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Fund will be needed for payments to eligible low-power TV stations toward purchase of a digital-to-analog conversion device to convert the incoming digital signal of their corresponding full-power TV station to analog format transmission on the low-power TV station's analog channel. Permits the Secretary to make adjustments to such determination from time to time.

Authorizes the Assistant Secretary, if such full amounts are not needed, to use the remaining amount for consumer education and technical assistance regarding the digital television (DTV) transition and the availability of the digital-to-analog converter box program (in addition to any pre-existing amounts expended for such purpose). Allows the use of such funds for partnering with, providing grants to, and contracting with non-profit organizations or public interest groups in achieving these efforts.

Requires the Assistant Secretary, if such education program is initiated, to develop a plan to address the educational and technical assistance needs of vulnerable populations, such as senior citizens, individuals residing in rural and remote areas, and minorities, including, where appropriate, education plans focusing on the need for analog pass-through digital converter boxes in areas served by low-power or translator stations. Requires the Assistant Secretary also to consider the speed with which these objectives can be accomplished to the greatest public benefit.

Amends the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 to extend through FY2012 the requirement for the Assistant Secretary to make payments from the Fund to implement a program to reimburse each licensee of an eligible low-power television station for equipment to upgrade low-power television stations from analog to digital in eligible rural communities.

Requires such reimbursements to be issued to eligible stations on or after February 18, 2009 (currently, no earlier than October 1, 2010).

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jul 30, 2008:** Signed by President.
- **Jul 30, 2008:** Became Public Law No: 110-295.
- **Jul 22, 2008:** Presented to President.
- **Jul 9, 2008:** Mr. Hill moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Jul 9, 2008:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H6306-6309)
- **Jul 9, 2008:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 2607.
- **Jul 9, 2008:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H6306)
- **Jul 9, 2008:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H6306)
- **Jul 9, 2008:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 9, 2008:** Cleared for White House.
- **Jun 20, 2008:** Received in the House.
- **Jun 20, 2008:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jun 20, 2008:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
- **Jun 19, 2008:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S5915)
- **Jun 19, 2008:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jun 19, 2008:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jun 10, 2008:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Inouye without amendment. With written report No. 110-348.
- **Jun 10, 2008:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 774.
- **Apr 24, 2008:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Feb 7, 2008:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 7, 2008:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S790)
- **Feb 7, 2008:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR S790)