

S 2764

Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Nov 10, 2009

Current Status: By Senator Rockefeller from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report.

Latest Action: By Senator Rockefeller from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report.

Report No. 111-385. (Dec 22, 2010)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/2764>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]

Party: Democratic • State: WV • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]	D · MA		Nov 10, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 17, 2010

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 S 3333	Related bill	May 27, 2010: Became Public Law No: 111-175.
111 S 3191	Related bill	Apr 13, 2010: Held at the desk.

Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2009 - (Sec. 2) Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to extend until December 31, 2014 (under current law, until December 31, 2009), the authorization for a multichannel video programming distributor to retransmit the signal of a broadcasting station if the subscriber receiving the signal is outside the station's local market and resides in an unserved household.

(Sec. 3) Applies provisions relating to satellite retransmissions of significantly viewed broadcast signals only to retransmissions to subscribers who receive local-into-local service.

Allows a satellite carrier to retransmit in high definition (HD) the signal of a significantly viewed station only if the carrier also retransmits in HD (when available) the signal of a station located in the local market of the subscriber and affiliated with the same network.

Directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to promulgate a rule implementing amendments made by this Act.

(Sec. 4) Allows satellite carriers to retransmit local-into-local signals in digital and HD to two separate reception antennas.

Revises the rules governing: (1) the reception of distant signals by certain grandfathered and nongrandfathered subscribers; (2) reception predictive models; and (3) on-location reception testing.

(Sec. 7) Requires each eligible satellite carrier providing any local-into-local HD secondary transmissions before enactment of this Act to carry the HD signals of qualified noncommercial educational television stations in that local market according to a specified time schedule. Defines "eligible satellite carrier" as any satellite carrier that does not have a carriage contract, in effect at enactment of this Act, with a qualified noncommercial educational television station that governs carriage of more than 30 such stations.

(Sec. 8) Requires the Comptroller General to study and report to Congress on the changes to the carriage requirements currently imposed on multichannel video programming distributors under the Communications Act of 1934 and FCC regulations that would be required by or beneficial to consumers if Congress implemented such a phase-out.

(Sec. 9) Requires satellite carriers to report to the FCC regarding local market retransmissions. Requires an FCC study and report concerning incentives that would induce a satellite carrier to provide television in certain local markets in which the carrier does not provide service.

(Sec. 10) Directs the FCC to require as a condition of any provision, initial authorization, or authorization renewal that a provider of direct broadcast satellite service providing video programming, or a qualified satellite provider providing such programming, reserve a specified portion of its channel capacity for noncommercial programming of an educational or informational nature.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Dec 22, 2010:** By Senator Rockefeller from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report. Report No. 111-385.
- **Dec 17, 2010:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Rockefeller with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Dec 17, 2010:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 709.
- **Nov 19, 2009:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Nov 10, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 10, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.