

HR 1856

Modern Television Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Mar 11, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet. (May 18, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1856>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Scalise, Steve [R-LA-1]

Party: Republican • **State:** LA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Mar 11, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 12, 2021
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	May 19, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Modern Television Act of 2021

This bill establishes measures to prevent blackouts of television broadcast stations, including requiring good-faith negotiations in broadcast agreements and providing for outside arbitration of certain negotiation disputes.

Specifically, the bill requires a station and a cable or satellite service to negotiate in good faith when attempting to reach a marketplace agreement, and it requires the cable or satellite service to retransmit the signal of a station for up to 60 days while the parties renegotiate an expired agreement. The Federal Communications Commission may require a station and a cable or satellite service to submit to binding arbitration to resolve any dispute that may arise (the parties must be retroactively paid for content aired during this time). Further, a station is prohibited from requiring payment from a cable or satellite service for customers of the cable or satellite service who do not receive the signals of the station from that service.

Additionally, the bill repeals specified provisions, including those related to retransmission consent and compulsory copyright licenses. The bill also disallows federal, state, and local authorities from regulating the rates of a cable or satellite service.

The Government Accountability Office must assess the impact of the bill.

Actions Timeline

- **May 18, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.
- **Mar 12, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **Mar 11, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 11, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.