

## S 2220

Section 331 Obligation Clarification Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

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

**Introduced:** Jun 24, 2021

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Jun 24, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2220>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jun 24, 2021

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 24, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 4208	Identical bill	<b>Jun 29, 2021:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

## **Section 331 Obligation Clarification Act**

This bill specifies that certain service obligations owed by the licensee of a commercial television broadcast station apply regardless of the broadcast frequency used by the licensee.

Specifically, the bill provides that a licensee making a change from a very high frequency (VHF) broadcast station to an ultrahigh frequency (UHF) broadcast station must ensure the change does not affect its obligation to provide service to its customers. The bill also requires such a licensee to (1) broadcast at least 14 hours of common local programming per week, (2) include a substantial amount of particularized local content, and (3) maintain a studio in the station's community.

The bill further provides for the reallocation of a station to a community where there is no VHF or UHF station.

The Government Accountability Office must examine and report on the process used by the Federal Communications Commission for renewing broadcast television licenses to determine if that process meets specified obligations. In particular, the GAO must review how the process relates to television broadcast stations with specific obligations to serve the needs of their local communities.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jun 24, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 24, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.