

## S 340

### Protecting Community Television Act

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

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

**Introduced:** Feb 9, 2023

**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. (Feb 9, 2023)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/340>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]

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

### Cosponsors (19 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Welch, Peter [D-VT]	D · VT		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 9, 2023
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 30, 2023
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jan 16, 2024

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 9, 2023

## Subjects & Policy Tags

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### Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

### Related Bills

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Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 907	Identical bill	<b>Feb 17, 2023:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

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### Summary (as of Feb 9, 2023)

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#### Protecting Community Television Act

This bill limits the scope of the franchise fee paid by cable operators to encompass only a tax, fee, or other monetary assessment. (This fee is charged by a state or local authority for a franchise that a cable operator must obtain in order to provide its services in a particular area.)

Historically, the franchise fee, which is capped at 5% of the franchise holder's gross revenues from providing cable services, did not include certain in-kind contributions and other costs, including some costs that support public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access channels. However, under a rule adopted on August 1, 2019, the Federal Communications Commission included most cable-related in-kind contributions and costs for PEG channels (except for certain capital costs) paid by new entrants and incumbent cable operators as part of the franchise fee, and therefore subject to the cap. This bill excludes those contributions and costs from the cap.

#### Actions Timeline

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- **Feb 9, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 9, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.