

[STAFF WORKING DRAFT]

OCTOBER 1, 2008

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To require the Federal Communications Commission to provide for a short-term extension of the analog television broadcasting authority so that essential public safety announcements and digital television transition information may be provided for a short time during the transition to digital television broadcasting.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER —, 2008

Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. _____, and Mr. _____)
) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Federal Communications Commission to provide for a short-term extension of the analog television broadcasting authority so that essential public safety announcements and digital television transition information may be provided for a short time during the transition to digital television broadcasting.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Short-term Analog
3 Flash and Emergency Readiness Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED.**

5 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any
6 other provision of law, the Federal Communications Com-
7 mission shall, not later than January 15, 2009, develop
8 and implement a program to encourage and permit, to the
9 extent technically feasible, the continued broadcasting in
10 the analog television service of the public safety informa-
11 tion and digital transition information specified in sub-
12 section (b) during the 30-day period beginning February
13 18, 2009, subject to such limitations as the Commission
14 finds to be consistent with the public interest and the re-
15 quirements of this Act.

16 (b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The program re-
17 quired by subsection (a) shall provide for the broadcast
18 of—

19 (1) emergency information, including critical
20 details regarding the emergency, as carried or re-
21 quired to be carried by full-power stations in the
22 digital television service;

23 (2) information, in both English and Spanish,
24 and accessible to persons with disabilities, con-
25 cerning—

1 (A) the digital television transition, includ-
2 ing the fact that a transition has taken place
3 and that additional action is required to con-
4 tinue receiving television service, including
5 emergency notifications; and

6 (B) the steps required to enable viewers to
7 receive such emergency information via the dig-
8 ital television service and to convert to receiving
9 digital television service, including a phone
10 number and Internet address by which help
11 with such transition may be obtained in both
12 English and Spanish; and

13 (3) such other information as the Commission
14 may find to be consistent with the public interest.

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