

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

[STAFF WORKING DRAFT]

July 30, 2007

Purpose: To provide for a broader FCC inquiry into control technologies and methods of encouraging their development and use.

**IN THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION—110TH Cong., 1ST Sess.**

S. 602, 110TH Congress, 1ST Session

AUGUST 2, 2007

INTENDED to be proposed by Mr. PRYOR

Viz: Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Child Safe Viewing
3 Act of 2007”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Video programming has a direct impact on
7 a child’s perception of safe and reasonable behavior.

8 (2) Children may imitate actions they witness
9 on video programming, including language, drug
10 use, and sexual conduct.

11 (3) Studies suggest that the strong appeal of
12 video programming erodes the ability of parents to

1 develop responsible attitudes and behavior in their
2 children.

3 (4) The average American child watches 4
4 hours of television each day.

5 (5) 99.9 percent of all consumer complaints
6 logged by the Federal Communications Commission
7 in the first quarter of 2006 regarding radio and tele-
8 vision broadcasting were because of obscenity, inde-
9 cency, and profanity.

10 (6) There is a compelling government interest
11 in empowering parents to limit their children's expo-
12 sure to harmful television content.

13 (7) Section 1 of the Communications Act of
14 1934 requires the Federal Communications Commis-
15 sion to promote the safety of life and property
16 through the use of wire and radio communications.

17 (8) In the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
18 Congress authorized Parental Choice in Television
19 Programming and the V-Chip. Congress further di-
20 rected action on alternative blocking technology as
21 new video technology advanced.

22 **SEC. 3. EXAMINATION OF ADVANCED BLOCKING TECH-**
23 **NOLOGIES.**

24 (a) INQUIRY REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Com-

1 munications Commission shall initiate a notice of inquiry
2 to consider measures to examine—

3 (1) the existence and availability of advanced
4 blocking technologies that are compatible with var-
5 ious communications devices or platforms; and

6 (2) methods of encouraging the development,
7 deployment, and use of such technology by parents
8 that do not affect the packaging or pricing of a con-
9 tent provider's offering.

10 (b) CONTENT OF PROCEEDING.—In conducting the
11 inquiry required under subsection (a), the Commission
12 shall consider advanced blocking technologies that—

13 (1) may be appropriate across a wide variety of
14 distribution platforms, including wired, wireless, and
15 Internet platforms;

16 (2) may be appropriate across a wide variety of
17 devices capable of transmitting or receiving video or
18 audio programming, including television sets, DVD
19 players, VCRs, cable set top boxes, satellite receiv-
20 ers, and wireless devices;

21 (3) can filter language based upon information
22 in closed captioning;

23 (4) operate independently of ratings pre-as-
24 signed by the creator of such video or audio pro-
25 gramming; and

1 (5) may be effective in enhancing the ability of
2 a parent to protect his or her child from indecent or
3 objectionable programming, as determined by such
4 parent.

5 (c) REPORTING.—Not later than 270 days after the
6 enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue a report
7 to Congress detailing any findings resulting from the in-
8 quiry required under subsection (a).

9 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “ad-
10 vanced blocking technologies” means technologies that can
11 improve or enhance the ability of a parent to protect his
12 or her child from any indecent or objectionable video or
13 audio programming, as determined by such parent, that
14 is transmitted through the use of wire, wireless, or radio
15 communication.

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