

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2494

To update the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act  
of 2010.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2023

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. FETTERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To update the 21st Century Communications and Video  
Accessibility Act of 2010.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Communications, Video, and Technology Accessibility  
6 Act of 2023”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—CLOSED CAPTIONING AND AUDIO DESCRIPTION

- Sec. 101. Definitions.
- Sec. 102. Closed captioning.
- Sec. 103. Audio description.
- Sec. 104. Technical and conforming amendments relating to economic burden.
- Sec. 105. American Sign Language video programming.
- Sec. 106. Internet protocol closed captioning and audio description advisory committee.

#### TITLE II—VIDEO PLAYBACK APPARATUSES

- Sec. 201. Video playback apparatuses.

#### TITLE III—COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

- Sec. 301. Video conferencing.
- Sec. 302. Relay services.
- Sec. 303. National DeafBlind equipment distribution program.
- Sec. 304. Advanced Communications Services Advisory Committee.
- Sec. 305. Real-time text.
- Sec. 306. Advanced communications services software.

#### TITLE IV—EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 401. Emerging technology.

#### TITLE V—ENFORCEMENT AND REPORTING

- Sec. 501. Accessibility enforcement.
- Sec. 502. Reports to Congress.

# 1 **TITLE I—CLOSED CAPTIONING** 2 **AND AUDIO DESCRIPTION**

## 3 **SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 713(h) of the Commu-  
5 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 613(h)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1)—

7 (A) in the heading, by striking “VIDEO DE-  
8 SCRIPTION” and inserting “AUDIO DESCRIP-  
9 TION”; and

10 (B) by striking “video description” and in-  
11 sserting “audio description”;

12 (2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-  
13 graph (6);

1           (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
2           lowing:

3           “(2) LIVE PROGRAMMING.—The term ‘live pro-  
4           gramming’ means video programming published or  
5           exhibited or made available substantially simulta-  
6           neously with its performance.

7           “(3) NEAR-LIVE PROGRAMMING.—The term  
8           ‘near-live programming’ means video programming  
9           that is not live programming and is published or ex-  
10          hibited or made available not more than 12 hours  
11          after its performance and recording.

12          “(4) PRERECORDED PROGRAMMING.—The term  
13          ‘prerecorded programming’ means video program-  
14          ming that is not live programming or near-live pro-  
15          gramming.

16          “(5) USER-GENERATED VIDEO.—The term  
17          ‘user-generated video’ means video programming  
18          that is—

19                 “(A) made available via a service using  
20                 Internet protocol or any successor protocol;

21                 “(B) created and added to the service by  
22                 a user of the service; and

23                 “(C) not the subject of a contractual ar-  
24                 rangement between the user and the service

1 that obliges the user to create the programming  
2 specifically for delivery via the service.”; and  
3 (4) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated—

4 (A) by striking “means programming” and  
5 inserting the following: “—

6 “(A) means—

7 “(i) programming”;

8 (B) in subparagraph (A)(i), as so des-  
9 igned, by striking “, but not including” and  
10 all that follows and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(ii) audiovisual programming made  
13 available via Internet protocol or any suc-  
14 cessor protocol—

15 “(I) including—

16 “(aa) programming provided  
17 on demand at the request of a  
18 viewer; and

19 “(bb) programming  
20 streamed live or at a prescribed  
21 time or times to all or a subset of  
22 viewers; and

23 “(II) regardless of whether or not  
24 the programming is generally consid-  
25 ered comparable to programming pro-

1                    vided by a television broadcast station;  
2                    and

3                    “(B) does not include user-generated video  
4                    unless the user-generated video is generated by  
5                    an entity that also generates video program-  
6                    ming that is—

7                    “(i) not user-generated video in the  
8                    ordinary course of its business; or

9                    “(ii) generated by an entity that earns  
10                    more than \$1,000,000 in annual revenue  
11                    resulting from user-generated videos.”.

12                    (b) DEFINITION OF “ACHIEVABLE”.—Section 716(g)  
13 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 617(g))  
14 is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
15 striking “section 718” and inserting “sections 713, 716A,  
16 and 718”.

17                    (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

18                    (1) REPEAL OF DEFINITION OF “CONSUMER  
19                    GENERATED MEDIA”.—Section 3 of the Communica-  
20                    tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153) is amended—

21                    (A) by striking paragraph (14); and

22                    (B) by redesignating paragraphs (15)  
23                    through (59) as paragraphs (14) through (58),  
24                    respectively.

25                    (2) OTHER AMENDMENTS.—

1           (A) Section 271(e)(1)(A) of the Commu-  
 2           nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 271(e)(1)(A))  
 3           is amended by striking “section 3(47)(A)” and  
 4           inserting “subparagraph (A) of the paragraph  
 5           defining that term in section 3”.

6           (B) Section 203(a) of the Rural Elec-  
 7           trification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 924(a)) is  
 8           amended by striking “section 3(o)” and insert-  
 9           ing “section 3”.

10           (C) Section 248 of the Television Broad-  
 11           casting to Cuba Act (22 U.S.C. 1465ff) is  
 12           amended by striking “section 3(c)” each place  
 13           the term appears and inserting “section 3”.

14           (d) MODERNIZING TITLE OF HEAD OF COMMIS-  
 15           SION.—The Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151  
 16           et seq.) is amended—

17           (1) in section 4 (47 U.S.C. 154)—

18           (A) in subsection (a)—

19           (i) by inserting “(1)” after “(a)”;

20           (ii) by striking “chairman” and in-  
 21           serting “Chair”; and

22           (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
 23           lowing:

24           “(2) Any reference in any law, regulation, docu-  
 25           ment, paper, or other record of the United States to

1 the chairman or the Chairman of the Commission  
2 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Chair of the  
3 Commission.”;

4 (B) in subsection (d), by striking “Chair-  
5 man” each place the term appears and insert-  
6 ing “Chair”;

7 (C) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “chair-  
8 man” each place the term appears and insert-  
9 ing “Chair”; and

10 (D) in subsection (g)(1), by striking  
11 “chairman” and inserting “Chair”;  
12 (2) in section 5 (47 U.S.C. 155)—

13 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “chair-  
14 man” each place the term appears and insert-  
15 ing “Chair”; and

16 (B) in subsection (e), by striking “Chair-  
17 man” each place the term appears and insert-  
18 ing “Chair”;

19 (3) in section 13(c) (47 U.S.C. 163(c)), by  
20 striking “Chairman” and inserting “Chair”;

21 (4) in section 309(j)(8)(G)(iv) (47 U.S.C.  
22 309(j)(8)(G)(iv)), by striking “Chairman” and in-  
23 serting “Chair”;

24 (5) in section 344 (47 U.S.C. 344)—

1 (A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking  
2 “Chairman” and inserting “Chair”;

3 (B) in subsection (d), by striking “Chair-  
4 man” each place the term appears and insert-  
5 ing “Chair”; and

6 (6) in section 410(c) (47 U.S.C. 410(c)), by  
7 striking “Chairman of the Commission” and insert-  
8 ing “Chair of the Commission”.

9 **SEC. 102. CLOSED CAPTIONING.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 713 of the Communica-  
11 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 613) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h)  
13 as subsections (e) through (i), respectively;

14 (2) in subsection (c), by striking paragraphs (2)  
15 and (3) and inserting the following:

16 “(2) DEADLINES FOR PROGRAMMING MADE  
17 AVAILABLE USING INTERNET PROTOCOL.—

18 “(A) REGULATIONS ON CLOSED CAP-  
19 TIONING ON VIDEO PROGRAMMING MADE AVAIL-  
20 ABLE USING INTERNET PROTOCOL OR SUC-  
21 CESSOR PROTOCOL.—Not later than 18 months  
22 after the date of submission of the report to the  
23 Commission required under section 106(f)(1) of  
24 the Communications, Video, and Technology  
25 Accessibility Act of 2023, the Commission shall



1           revise its regulations to require the provision,  
2           receipt, and display of closed captioning on  
3           video programming made available using Inter-  
4           net protocol or any successor protocol published  
5           or exhibited after the effective date of the re-  
6           vised regulations.

7           “(B) SCHEDULE.—The regulations revised  
8           under this paragraph shall include an appro-  
9           priate schedule of deadlines, the latest of which  
10          shall be not later than 6 years after the date of  
11          submission of the report to the Commission re-  
12          quired under section 106(f)(1) of the Commu-  
13          nications, Video, and Technology Accessibility  
14          Act of 2023, for the provision, receipt, and dis-  
15          play of closed captioning on video programming  
16          made available using Internet protocol or any  
17          successor protocol, taking into account whether  
18          the programming—

19                 “(i) is prerecorded, live, or near-live;

20                 “(ii) has been made available to view-  
21                 ers before the effective date of the revised  
22                 regulations; and

23                 “(iii) was live or near-live at the time  
24                 it was initially made available.

1           “(C) REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULA-  
2           TIONS.—The regulations revised under this  
3           paragraph—

4                   “(i) shall—

5                           “(I) ensure that English-lan-  
6                           guage and Spanish-language video  
7                           programming first published or exhib-  
8                           ited after the effective date of the re-  
9                           vised regulations is fully accessible  
10                          through the provision of closed cap-  
11                          tions in the original language of the  
12                          audio track of the programming;

13                          “(II) define categories of entities  
14                          engaged in making available video  
15                          programming; and

16                          “(III) apportion the responsibil-  
17                          ities for the provision, quality, pass-  
18                          through, and rendering of closed cap-  
19                          tions among the entities defined by  
20                          the Commission under subclause  
21                          (II)—

22                                   “(aa) to ensure full access  
23                                   by viewers via all entities and  
24                                   combinations of entities that

1 make video programming avail-  
2 able to viewers;

3 “(bb) to ensure that the reg-  
4 ulations can be enforced effec-  
5 tively against responsible parties;  
6 and

7 “(cc) to ensure that closed  
8 caption data remains with the  
9 video programming to which the  
10 data is added and is distributed  
11 in common formats so that closed  
12 captions can be exhibited intact  
13 by all other entities that subse-  
14 quently make the programming  
15 available to viewers;

16 “(ii) shall require that an entity en-  
17 gaged in making available user-generated  
18 video, whether or not the entity is also en-  
19 gaged in making available video that is not  
20 user-generated video, provide easy-to-use  
21 authoring tools that—

22 “(I) permit users who post videos  
23 on the entity’s platform to add closed  
24 captions; and

1                   “(II) conspicuously prompt users  
2                   who post videos on the entity’s plat-  
3                   form to use the tools;

4                   “(iii) shall not distinguish between  
5                   full-length programming and video clips;  
6                   and

7                   “(iv) for the purposes of determining  
8                   closed captioning obligations under this  
9                   section and assessing compliance with the  
10                  regulations of the Commission governing  
11                  the quality of closed captioning under  
12                  paragraphs (j), (k), and (m) of section  
13                  79.1 of title 47, Code of Federal Regula-  
14                  tions, or any successor regulation gov-  
15                  erning closed captioning quality, treat any  
16                  programming that was live programming  
17                  or near-live programming at the time that  
18                  it was initially made available to viewers as  
19                  prerecorded programming if it is again  
20                  made available to viewers more than 24  
21                  hours after its initial availability.”;

22                  (3) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
23                  lowing:

24                  “(d) CAPTION QUALITY UPDATES.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years  
2 after the date of enactment of the Communications,  
3 Video, and Technology Accessibility Act of 2023, the  
4 Commission shall revise its regulations to extend the  
5 requirements for the quality of closed captions under  
6 paragraphs (j), (k), and (m) of section 79.1 of title  
7 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor  
8 regulation, to all programming made available via  
9 Internet protocol or any successor protocol.

10           “(2) REGULAR UPDATES.—Not later than 4  
11 years after the date of enactment of the Commu-  
12 nications, Video, and Technology Accessibility Act of  
13 2023, and every 4 years thereafter, the Commission  
14 shall—

15           “(A) update its regulations pertaining to  
16 the quality of closed captions as necessary to  
17 reflect technological and methodological ad-  
18 vances, to the extent deployment of such ad-  
19 vances will improve the quality of closed cap-  
20 tions; and

21           “(B) take any action, including enforce-  
22 ment, necessary to ensure compliance with its  
23 regulations pertaining to the quality of closed  
24 captions.”; and

25           (4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

1 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
2 by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “sub-  
3 sections (b) and (c)”;

4 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “the pro-  
5 vider or owner of such programming” and in-  
6 serting “an entity responsible for publishing,  
7 exhibiting, or making available such program-  
8 ming”; and

9 (C) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-  
10 ing the following:

11 “(3) an entity responsible for publishing, exhib-  
12 iting, or making available video programming may  
13 petition the Commission for an exemption from the  
14 requirements of subsection (b) or (c), and the Com-  
15 mission may grant the petition upon a showing that  
16 the requirements would be economically burdensome.  
17 The Commission shall act to grant or deny any such  
18 petition, in whole or in part, not later than 6 months  
19 after the Commission receives the petition, unless  
20 the Commission finds that an extension of the 6-  
21 month period is necessary to determine whether the  
22 requirements are economically burdensome.”.

23 (b) ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN CATEGORICAL EX-  
24 EMPTIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-  
25 ment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commis-

1 sion shall reassess the second sentence of paragraph  
 2 (a)(10) and reassess paragraph (d) of section 79.1 of title  
 3 47, Code of Federal Regulations, to eliminate categorical  
 4 exemptions that impede access to video programming, are  
 5 outdated, or are no longer warranted under subsection  
 6 (e)(1) of section 713 of the Communications Act of 1934  
 7 (47 U.S.C. 613), as so redesignated by subsection (a) of  
 8 this section.

9 **SEC. 103. AUDIO DESCRIPTION.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 713 of  
 11 the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 613), as re-  
 12 designated by section 102, is amended—

13 (1) in the heading, by striking “Video” and in-  
 14 serting “Audio”; and

15 (2) by striking paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) and  
 16 inserting the following:

17 “(2) REVISION TO REINSTATED AUDIO DE-  
 18 SCRIPTION REGULATIONS FOR PROGRAMMING PUB-  
 19 LISHED OR EXHIBITED ON TELEVISION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18  
 21 months after the date of enactment of the Com-  
 22 munications, Video, and Technology Accessi-  
 23 bility Act of 2023, the Commission shall revise  
 24 section 79.3 of title 47, Code of Federal Regu-  
 25 lations (relating to audio description of video

1 programming) in accordance with subparagraph  
2 (B).

3 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations  
4 revised under subparagraph (A)—

5 “(i) shall ensure that all English-lan-  
6 guage and Spanish-language video pro-  
7 gramming first published or exhibited on  
8 television after the effective date of the re-  
9 vised regulations is fully accessible through  
10 the provision of audio description in the  
11 original language of the audio track of the  
12 programming;

13 “(ii) shall include an appropriate  
14 schedule of deadlines, the latest of which  
15 shall be not later than 6 years after the ef-  
16 fective date of the revised regulations, for  
17 the provision, receipt, and performance of  
18 audio described programming published or  
19 exhibited on television, taking into account  
20 whether the programming—

21 “(I) is prerecorded, live, or near-  
22 live;

23 “(II) has been published or ex-  
24 hibited prior to the effective date of  
25 the revised regulations; and



1                   “(III) was live or near-live at the  
2                   time it was initially published or ex-  
3                   hibited;

4                   “(iii) shall provide that audio de-  
5                   scribed programming published or exhib-  
6                   ited on television shall—

7                   “(I) be labeled and searchable or  
8                   otherwise easily discoverable through  
9                   navigation devices, apparatuses, appli-  
10                  cations, and other methods by which  
11                  the programming is published or ex-  
12                  hibited; and

13                  “(II) include a recognizable tone  
14                  at the beginning of the programming  
15                  on all audio channels provided in the  
16                  same languages as the available audio  
17                  description streams to indicate that  
18                  audio description is available in those  
19                  languages;

20                  “(iv) shall provide that audio descrip-  
21                  tion of video programming published or ex-  
22                  hibited on television shall be made avail-  
23                  able to the public on an audio channel sole-  
24                  ly dedicated to audio description, so long

1 as it is achievable (as defined in section  
2 716);

3 “(v) shall require any entity involved  
4 in the publishing or exhibiting of audio de-  
5 scribed programming published or exhib-  
6 ited on television to provide contact infor-  
7 mation, consistent with sections 79.1(i)  
8 and 79.4(e)(2)(iii) of title 47, Code of Fed-  
9 eral Regulations, or any successor regula-  
10 tions, for users to report problems related  
11 to audio description; and

12 “(vi) for the purposes of determining  
13 audio description obligations under this  
14 paragraph and assessing compliance with  
15 regulations adopted to assess the quality of  
16 audio description under paragraph (4),  
17 shall treat any programming that was live  
18 or near-live programming at the time of its  
19 initial airing as prerecorded programming  
20 if it is re-exhibited by an entity more than  
21 36 hours after its initial airing.

22 “(3) AUDIO DESCRIPTION ON VIDEO PROGRAM-  
23 MING MADE AVAILABLE VIA INTERNET PROTOCOL.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years  
25 after the date of submission of the report to the

1 Commission required under subsection  
2 106(f)(2) of the Communications, Video, and  
3 Technology Accessibility Act of 2023, the Com-  
4 mission shall revise its regulations to require  
5 the provision, receipt, and performance of audio  
6 description on video programming made avail-  
7 able using Internet protocol or any successor  
8 protocol published or exhibited after the effec-  
9 tive date of the revised regulations.

10 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations  
11 revised under subparagraph (A)—

12 “(i) shall ensure that all video pro-  
13 gramming made available using Internet  
14 protocol or any successor protocol is fully  
15 accessible through the provision of audio  
16 description;

17 “(ii) shall include an appropriate  
18 schedule of deadlines, the latest of which  
19 shall be not later than 6 years after the ef-  
20 fective date of the revised regulations, for  
21 the provision, receipt, and performance of  
22 audio described programming made avail-  
23 able using Internet protocol or any suc-  
24 cessor protocol, taking into account wheth-  
25 er the programming—

1                   “(I) is prerecorded, live, or near-  
2 live;

3                   “(II) has been made available to  
4 users prior to the effective date of the  
5 revised regulations; and

6                   “(III) was live or near-live at the  
7 time it was initially made available;

8                   “(iii) shall—

9                   “(I) define categories of entities  
10 engaged in making available video  
11 programming using Internet protocol  
12 or any successor protocol; and

13                   “(II) apportion the responsibil-  
14 ities for the provision, quality, pass-  
15 through, and performance of audio de-  
16 scription among the entities identified  
17 by the Commission under subclause  
18 (I)—

19                   “(aa) to ensure full access  
20 by viewers;

21                   “(bb) to ensure that the reg-  
22 ulations can be enforced effec-  
23 tively against responsible parties;  
24 and

1                   “(cc) to ensure that audio  
2                   description data remains with the  
3                   video programming to which the  
4                   data is added and is distributed  
5                   in common formats so that audio  
6                   description can be exhibited in-  
7                   tact by all other entities that  
8                   subsequently make the program-  
9                   ming available to viewers;

10                   “(iv) shall require that an entity en-  
11                   gaged in making available user-generated  
12                   video, whether or not the entity is also en-  
13                   gaged in making available video that is not  
14                   user-generated video, provides easy-to-use  
15                   authoring tools that—

16                   “(I) permit users who post videos  
17                   on the entity’s platform to add audio  
18                   description; and

19                   “(II) conspicuously prompt users  
20                   who post videos on the entity’s plat-  
21                   form to use the tools;

22                   “(v) shall provide that audio described  
23                   programming made available using Inter-  
24                   net protocol or any successor protocol  
25                   shall—

1                   “(I) be labeled and searchable or  
2                   otherwise easily discoverable through  
3                   navigation devices, apparatuses, appli-  
4                   cations, and other methods on which  
5                   the programming is made available;  
6                   and

7                   “(II) include a recognizable tone  
8                   at the beginning of the programming  
9                   on all audio channels provided in the  
10                  same languages as the available audio  
11                  description streams to indicate that  
12                  audio description is available in those  
13                  languages;

14                  “(vi) shall provide that audio descrip-  
15                  tion of video programming made available  
16                  using Internet protocol or any successor  
17                  protocol shall be provided on an audio  
18                  track solely dedicated to audio description,  
19                  so long as it is achievable (as defined in  
20                  section 716);

21                  “(vii) shall require entities engaged in  
22                  making available audio described program-  
23                  ming using Internet protocol or any suc-  
24                  cessor protocol to provide contact informa-  
25                  tion, consistent with sections 79.1(i) and

1 79.4(c)(2)(iii) of title 47, Code of Federal  
2 Regulations, or any successor regulations,  
3 for users to report problems related to  
4 audio description; and

5 “(viii) for the purposes of determining  
6 audio description obligations under this  
7 paragraph and assessing compliance with  
8 regulations adopted to assess the quality of  
9 audio description under paragraph (4),  
10 shall treat any programming that was live  
11 or near-live programming at the time it  
12 was initially made available as prerecorded  
13 programming if it is made available by any  
14 entity more than 36 hours after it was ini-  
15 tially made available.

16 “(4) AUDIO DESCRIPTION QUALITY.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years  
18 after the date of submission of the report to the  
19 Commission required under subsection  
20 106(f)(2) of the Communications, Video, and  
21 Technology Accessibility Act of 2023, the Com-  
22 mission shall adopt regulations to ensure the  
23 quality of audio description on video program-  
24 ming, including video programming published  
25 or exhibited on television or made available via

1 Internet protocol or any successor protocol, as  
2 necessary to afford access to video program-  
3 ming that is functionally equivalent to the ac-  
4 cess provided by the visual components of the  
5 programming, including, to the extent prac-  
6 ticable, open subtitles in the same language as  
7 the audio or in other languages if the subtitles  
8 convey information relevant to the program that  
9 is not conveyed in the audio of the program.

10 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations  
11 adopted under subparagraph (A) shall require  
12 that audio description—

13 “(i) sufficiently convey key elements  
14 of the visual component;

15 “(ii) be appropriately voiced, consid-  
16 ering whether the use of synthetic voices is  
17 permissible and if so, under what cir-  
18 cumstances; and

19 “(iii) be appropriately edited and en-  
20 coded to ensure consistency with the edit-  
21 ing and encoding of the non-description  
22 audio track of the programming.

23 “(5) AUDIO DESCRIPTION EXEMPTIONS.—Not-  
24 withstanding paragraphs (2) and (3)—



1           “(A) the Commission may exempt by regu-  
2           lation from the requirements under paragraphs  
3           (2) and (3) programs, classes of programs, or  
4           services for which the Commission has deter-  
5           mined that the provision of audio description  
6           would be economically burdensome to an entity  
7           responsible for publishing or exhibiting or mak-  
8           ing available such programming; and

9           “(B) an entity responsible for publishing  
10          or exhibiting or making available video pro-  
11          gramming may petition the Commission for an  
12          exemption from the requirements under para-  
13          graphs (2) and (3), and the Commission may  
14          grant the exemption upon a showing that the  
15          requirement to include audio description would  
16          be economically burdensome. The Commission  
17          shall act to grant or deny any such petition, in  
18          whole or in part, not later than 6 months after  
19          the Commission receives the petition, unless the  
20          Commission finds that an extension of the 6-  
21          month period is necessary to determine whether  
22          the requirements are economically burden-  
23          some.”.

1 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—  
2 Title III of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.  
3 301 et seq.) is amended—

4 (1) in section 303 (47 U.S.C. 303)—

5 (A) in subsection (u)—

6 (i) in paragraph (1)(B)—

7 (I) by striking “video descrip-  
8 tion” and inserting “audio descrip-  
9 tion”; and

10 (II) by striking “section 713(f)”  
11 and inserting “section 713(g)”; and

12 (ii) by moving the left margin of that  
13 subsection and each paragraph, subpara-  
14 graph, and clause therein 2 ems to the left;  
15 and

16 (B) in subsection (z)(1), by striking “video  
17 description” each place the term appears and  
18 inserting “audio description”; and

19 (2) in section 330(b) (47 U.S.C. 330(b)), by  
20 striking “video description” each place the term ap-  
21 pears and inserting “audio description”.

1 **SEC. 104. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RE-**  
2 **LATING TO ECONOMIC BURDEN.**

3 Subsection (f) of section 713 of the Communications  
4 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 613), as redesignated by section  
5 102, is amended—

6 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

7 (A) by striking “The term ‘undue burden’  
8 means” and inserting “For purposes of this  
9 section, the term ‘economically burdensome’  
10 means”;

11 (B) by inserting “or audio description”  
12 after “closed captions”;

13 (C) by striking “this paragraph” and in-  
14 serting “subsections (e) and (g)(5)”; and

15 (D) by striking “result in an undue eco-  
16 nomic burden” and inserting “be economically  
17 burdensome”; and

18 (2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or audio de-  
19 scription” after “closed captions”.

20 **SEC. 105. AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE VIDEO PROGRAM-**  
21 **MING.**

22 Section 713 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
23 U.S.C. 613) is amended—

24 (1) by redesignating subsections (i) (as redesign-  
25 ated by section 102) and (j) as subsections (j) and  
26 (k), respectively; and

1           (2) by inserting before subsection (j), as so re-  
2           designated, the following:

3           “(i) AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION  
4           OF VIDEO PROGRAMMING.—Not later than 2 years after  
5           the date of submission of the report to the Commission  
6           required under section 106(f)(3) of the Communications,  
7           Video, and Technology Accessibility Act of 2023, the Com-  
8           mission shall prescribe regulations to—

9           “(1) establish uniform standards for the display  
10          and visibility of American Sign Language interpreta-  
11          tion where it is provided for video programming, in-  
12          cluding standards for ensuring that an interpreter is  
13          visible on the viewer’s screen during the program-  
14          ming; and

15          “(2) ensure that all video programming pub-  
16          lished or exhibited on television or made available  
17          via Internet protocol or any successor protocol that  
18          includes American Sign Language interpretation  
19          complies with the uniform standards established  
20          under paragraph (1) to the extent that compliance  
21          with such standards is achievable (as defined in sec-  
22          tion 716) by each entity responsible for delivering  
23          the programming.”.

1 **SEC. 106. INTERNET PROTOCOL CLOSED CAPTIONING AND**  
2 **AUDIO DESCRIPTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term “Advi-  
5 sory Committee” means the Closed Captioning and  
6 Audio Description Advisory Committee established  
7 under subsection (b).

8 (2) CHAIR.—The term “Chair” means the  
9 Chair of the Commission.

10 (3) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”  
11 means the Federal Communications Commission.

12 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after  
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Chair shall establish  
14 an advisory committee to be known as the “Closed Cap-  
15 tioning and Audio Description Advisory Committee”.

16 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—As soon as practicable after the  
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Chair shall appoint indi-  
18 viduals who have the technical knowledge and engineering  
19 expertise to serve on the Advisory Committee in the fulfill-  
20 ment of its duties, including the following:

21 (1) Representatives of entities engaged in mak-  
22 ing available video programming Internet protocol or  
23 any successor protocol, or a national organization or  
24 organization representing such entities.

25 (2) Representatives of vendors, developers, and  
26 manufacturers of systems, facilities, equipment, and

1 capabilities for the provision of video programming,  
2 including programming delivered using Internet pro-  
3 tocol or successor protocols, or a national organiza-  
4 tion representing such vendors, developers, or manu-  
5 facturers.

6 (3) Representatives of manufacturers of con-  
7 sumer electronics or information technology equip-  
8 ment used in the delivery of video programming, in-  
9 cluding programming delivered via Internet protocol  
10 or successor protocols, or a national organization  
11 representing such manufacturers.

12 (4) Individuals with expertise generating user-  
13 generated video, or a national organization rep-  
14 resenting such individuals.

15 (5) Representatives of national organizations  
16 representing accessibility advocates, including people  
17 with disabilities and older Americans.

18 (6) Representatives of service agencies engaged  
19 in the provision of captioning and audio description  
20 for video programming, including programming de-  
21 livered via Internet protocol or successor protocols.

22 (7) Academic experts or representatives of re-  
23 search institutes with expertise on captioning and  
24 audio description.

1           (8) Individuals with technical and engineering  
2 expertise, as the Chair determines appropriate.

3           (d) COMMISSION OVERSIGHT.—The Chair shall ap-  
4 point a member of the Commission’s staff to moderate and  
5 direct the work of the Advisory Committee.

6           (e) TECHNICAL STAFF.—The Chair shall appoint a  
7 member of the Commission’s technical staff to provide  
8 technical assistance to the Advisory Committee.

9           (f) DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—

10           (1) CLOSED CAPTIONING REPORT.—Not later  
11 than 1 year after the date of the first meeting of the  
12 Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee shall  
13 develop and submit to the Commission a report that  
14 includes the following:

15                   (A) A recommended schedule of deadlines  
16 for the provision of closed captioning on video  
17 programming made available via Internet pro-  
18 tocol or any successor protocol.

19                   (B) Identification of the protocols, tech-  
20 nical capabilities, and technical procedures  
21 needed to permit responsible entities to reliably  
22 provide, receive, and display closed captions of  
23 video programming made available via using  
24 Internet protocol or any successor protocol.

1           (C) Identification of additional protocols,  
2           technical capabilities, and technical procedures  
3           beyond those available as of the date of enact-  
4           ment of this Act needed for the provision, re-  
5           ceipt, and display of closed captions of video  
6           programming made available using Internet  
7           protocol or any successor protocol.

8           (D) A recommendation for technical stand-  
9           ards to address the protocols, capabilities, and  
10          procedures identified under subparagraph (B).

11          (E) A recommendation for any regulations  
12          that may be necessary to ensure compatibility  
13          between video programming made available  
14          using Internet protocol or any successor pro-  
15          tocol and apparatuses and navigation devices  
16          capable of receiving and displaying such pro-  
17          gramming in order to facilitate access to closed  
18          captions.

19          (F) An identification of attributes of easy-  
20          to-use authoring tools that can be used by view-  
21          ers to add closed captions to video program-  
22          ming made available using Internet protocol or  
23          any successor protocol.

24          (G) An identification of the categories of  
25          entities involved in the online delivery of video



1 programming, along with a recommendation on  
2 how to apportion the responsibilities for the  
3 provision, quality, pass-through, and display of  
4 closed captions among those entities to ensure  
5 full access by viewers.

6 (H) A recommendation for best practices  
7 for ensuring that programming that was live  
8 programming or near-live programming at the  
9 time that it was initially made available to view-  
10 ers is subsequently made available at the level  
11 of quality required for prerecorded program-  
12 ming.

13 (I) A recommendation for defining metrics  
14 and thresholds to be used for measuring the ac-  
15 curacy, synchronicity, completeness, and place-  
16 ment of closed captions for live programming as  
17 necessary to afford access to video program-  
18 ming that is functionally equivalent to the ac-  
19 cess provided by the audio track, with minimum  
20 thresholds that are neutral to different modali-  
21 ties for creating closed captions.

22 (2) AUDIO DESCRIPTION REPORT.—Not later  
23 than 1 year after the date of the first meeting of the  
24 Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee shall

1 develop and submit to the Commission a report that  
2 includes the following:

3 (A) A recommended schedule of deadlines  
4 for the provision of audio description on video  
5 programming made available using Internet  
6 protocol or any successor protocol.

7 (B) Identification of the protocols, tech-  
8 nical capabilities, and technical procedures  
9 needed to permit responsible entities to reliably  
10 provide, receive, and perform audio description  
11 of video programming made available via Inter-  
12 net protocol or any successor protocol.

13 (C) Identification of additional protocols,  
14 technical capabilities, and technical procedures  
15 beyond those available as of the date of enact-  
16 ment of this Act needed for the delivery of  
17 audio description of video programming.

18 (D) A recommendation for technical stand-  
19 ards to address the protocols, capabilities, and  
20 procedures identified under subparagraph (B).

21 (E) A recommendation for any regulations  
22 that may be necessary to ensure compatibility  
23 between video programming made available  
24 using Internet protocol or any successor pro-  
25 tocol and apparatuses and navigation devices

1 capable of receiving and displaying such pro-  
2 gramming in order to facilitate access to audio  
3 description.

4 (F) A recommendation for standards, pro-  
5 tocols, and procedures to ensure that audio de-  
6 scribed video programming is labeled and  
7 searchable or otherwise easily discoverable  
8 through navigation devices, apparatuses, appli-  
9 cations, and other methods on which such pro-  
10 gramming is published or exhibited or made  
11 available.

12 (G) A recommendation for the achievability  
13 of making audio description available on a dedi-  
14 cated audio channel.

15 (H) An identification of the categories of  
16 entities engaged in the online delivery of video  
17 programming, along with a recommendation on  
18 how to apportion the responsibilities for the  
19 provision, quality, pass-through, and perform-  
20 ance of audio description among those entities  
21 to ensure full access by viewers.

22 (I) A recommendation for defining metrics  
23 to be used for measuring the quality of audio  
24 description as necessary to afford access to

1 video programming that is functionally equiva-  
2 lent to the access provided visually.

3 (J) An identification of easy-to-use author-  
4 ing tools that can be used by viewers to add  
5 audio description to video programming made  
6 available via Internet protocol or any successor  
7 protocol.

8 (3) AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE VIDEO PRO-  
9 GRAMMING REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
10 the date of the first meeting of the Advisory Com-  
11 mittee, the Advisory Committee shall develop and  
12 submit to the Commission a report that includes a  
13 recommendation for standards for the display and  
14 visibility of American Sign Language interpretation  
15 where it is provided for video programming, includ-  
16 ing standards for ensuring that an interpreter is  
17 visible on a viewer's screen during the programming.

18 (4) CONSIDERATION OF WORK BY STANDARDS-  
19 SETTING ORGANIZATIONS.—The recommendations of  
20 the Advisory Committee shall, insofar as possible, in-  
21 corporate standards, protocols, and procedures that  
22 have been adopted by recognized industry standards-  
23 setting organizations for each of the purposes de-  
24 scribed in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

25 (g) MEETINGS.—

1           (1) INITIAL MEETING.—The initial meeting of  
2 the Advisory Committee shall take place not later  
3 than 45 days after the date on which the Chair has  
4 appointed all the members of the Advisory Com-  
5 mittee under subsection (c).

6           (2) OTHER MEETINGS.—After the initial meet-  
7 ing, the Advisory Committee shall meet at the call  
8 of the Chair.

9           (3) NOTICE; OPEN MEETINGS.—Any meeting  
10 held by the Advisory Committee—

11                   (A) shall be noticed not later than 14 days  
12 before the meeting; and

13                   (B) shall be open to the public.

14 (h) PROCEDURAL RULES.—

15           (1) QUORUM.—The presence of one-third of the  
16 members of the Advisory Committee shall constitute  
17 a quorum for conducting the business of the Advi-  
18 sory Committee.

19           (2) SUBCOMMITTEES.—To assist the Advisory  
20 Committee in carrying out its functions, the Chair  
21 may establish appropriate subcommittees composed  
22 of members of the Advisory Committee and other  
23 subject matter experts.

1           (3) ADDITIONAL PROCEDURAL RULES.—The  
2       Advisory Committee may adopt other procedural  
3       rules as needed.

4           (i) INAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COM-  
5       MITTEE ACT.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code,  
6       shall not apply with respect to the Advisory Committee  
7       or the activities of the Advisory Committee.

8           **TITLE II—VIDEO PLAYBACK**  
9           **APPARATUSES**

10       **SEC. 201. VIDEO PLAYBACK APPARATUSES.**

11       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 of the Communica-  
12       tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 303) is amended—

13           (1) in subsection (u)—

14               (A) by adjusting the margins two ems to  
15               the left;

16               (B) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “vis-  
17               ually impaired” and inserting “low vision”;

18               (C) in paragraph (2)—

19                   (i) by striking subparagraph (A); and

20                   (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs

21                   (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and

22                   (B), respectively;

23           (2) in subsection (z)—

24               (A) by adjusting the margins two ems to  
25               the left;

1 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “video  
2 description” each place it appears and inserting  
3 “audio description”; and

4 (C) in paragraph (2)—

5 (i) by striking “available to” and in-  
6 serting the following: “available—  
7 “(A) to”;

8 (ii) in subparagraph (A), as so des-  
9 ignated—

10 (I) by striking “or render”; and

11 (II) by striking “audible.” and  
12 inserting the following: “audible,  
13 which—

14 “(i) shall require encoding closed cap-  
15 tions and audio description data along with  
16 audio and video transmission in a format  
17 that can be adjusted and rendered by the  
18 consumer equipment consistent with the  
19 requirements of subsection (cc); and

20 “(ii) does not include merely ren-  
21 dering closed captions or audio description  
22 into visual or aural forms on the source de-  
23 vice; and”;

24 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
25 lowing:

1           “(B) to enable the activation of closed cap-  
2           tions, audio description, and emergency infor-  
3           mation on the consumer equipment.”; and

4           (3) by striking subsections (aa) and (bb) and  
5           inserting the following:

6           “(aa) Require for all digital apparatus designed to  
7           receive or play back video programming made available si-  
8           multaneously with sound, including apparatus designed to  
9           receive or display video programming made available using  
10          Internet protocol or any successor protocol, and navigation  
11          devices (as defined in section 76.1200 of title 47, Code  
12          of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation) for  
13          the display or selection of multichannel video program-  
14          ming manufactured or imported into the United States,  
15          that each apparatus or device—

16           “(1) be designed, developed, and fabricated so  
17           that control of appropriate built-in apparatus func-  
18           tions are accessible to and usable by individuals with  
19           disabilities, including individuals who are blind or  
20           low-vision, individuals with mobility disabilities, and  
21           individuals with speech disabilities, except that the  
22           Commission may not specify the technical standards,  
23           protocols, procedures, and other technical require-  
24           ments for meeting this requirement;



1           “(2) if equipped with built-in on-screen text  
2           menus or other visual indicators that are used to ac-  
3           cess its functions, to accompany such functions with  
4           audio output that is either integrated or peripheral  
5           to the apparatus or navigation device, so that such  
6           menus or indicators are accessible to and usable by  
7           individuals who are blind or low-vision in real-time;

8           “(3) provides easy access to closed captioning  
9           activation by—

10           “(A) if the apparatus or device is con-  
11           trolled by a physical remote control included  
12           with the apparatus or device at the time of pur-  
13           chase, providing a dedicated and tactilely identi-  
14           fiable button of at least similar size to other  
15           buttons on the remote control that is—

16           “(i) clearly labeled for closed captions;

17           and

18           “(ii) easily locatable on the remote  
19           control to activate and deactivate closed  
20           captions; and

21           “(B) if the apparatus or device is con-  
22           trolled by means other than a remote control,  
23           providing a dedicated button, key, or icon that  
24           is prominently displayed, clearly labeled for

1 closed captions, and easily locatable to activate  
2 and deactivate closed captions;

3 “(4) provides easy access to audio description  
4 activation by—

5 “(A) if the apparatus or device is con-  
6 trolled by a physical remote control included  
7 with the apparatus or device at the time of pur-  
8 chase, providing a dedicated and tactilely identi-  
9 fiable button of at least similar size to other  
10 buttons on the remote control that is—

11 “(i) clearly labeled for audio descrip-  
12 tion; and

13 “(ii) easily locatable on the remote  
14 control to activate and deactivate audio de-  
15 scription; and

16 “(B) if the apparatus or device is con-  
17 trolled by means other than a remote control,  
18 providing a dedicated button, key, or icon that  
19 is prominently displayed, clearly labeled for  
20 audio description, and easily locatable to acti-  
21 vate and deactivate audio description;

22 “(5) provides easy access to closed captioning  
23 display settings, including the technical capabilities  
24 set forth in section 79.103(c) of title 47, Code of  
25 Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation,

1 and audio description performance settings, includ-  
2 ing the capability to adjust the relative volumes of  
3 audio description and the audio track of a program,  
4 by—

5 “(A) if the apparatus or device is con-  
6 trolled by a physical remote control included  
7 with the apparatus or device at the time of pur-  
8 chase, providing a dedicated and tactilely identi-  
9 fiable button that is prominently displayed,  
10 clearly labeled for accessibility settings, and  
11 easily locatable on the remote control—

12 “(i) to permit the user to change  
13 closed captioning and audio description  
14 settings;

15 “(ii) that permits previewing the set-  
16 tings while leaving the underlying pro-  
17 gramming visible and audible; and

18 “(iii) that is of at least similar size to  
19 other buttons on the remote control; and

20 “(B) if the apparatus or device is con-  
21 trolled by means other than a remote control,  
22 providing a dedicated button, key, or icon that  
23 is prominently displayed, clearly labeled for ac-  
24 cessibility settings, and easily discoverable  
25 that—

1           “(i) permits the user to change closed  
2           captioning display and audio description  
3           performance settings;

4           “(ii) is displayed proximately to the  
5           video playback interface; and

6           “(iii) permits previewing the settings  
7           while leaving the underlying programming  
8           visible and audible;

9           “(6) provides a user with a prompt to modify  
10          closed caption activation and display settings and  
11          audio description activation and performance set-  
12          tings required under paragraphs (1) through (5)  
13          upon initial power-on after user purchase of the ap-  
14          paratus or device or upon a reset to factory settings  
15          of the apparatus or device;

16          “(7) ensures that closed caption activation and  
17          display settings and audio description activation and  
18          performance settings required under paragraphs (1)  
19          through (6) persist across all video playback  
20          functionality on the apparatus or device, including in  
21          applications or other software or plug-ins added by  
22          the user after the sale of the apparatus or device,  
23          and after powering off or restarting the apparatus  
24          or device, until a user changes the settings or the

1 apparatus or device is reset to factory default set-  
2 tings by the user; and

3 “(8) provides the necessary hardware and soft-  
4 ware to achieve compatibility with assistive tech-  
5 nologies and services, peripheral devices, or special-  
6 ized customer premises equipment commonly used  
7 by individuals with disabilities to achieve access, in-  
8 cluding refreshable braille displays, switch activation  
9 such as sip and puff devices, hearing aids, hands-  
10 free technologies, and voice control technologies.”.

11 (b) IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.—

12 (1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
13 “navigation device” has the meaning given the term  
14 in section 76.1200 of title 47, Code of Federal Reg-  
15 ulations, or any successor regulation.

16 (2) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 18 months  
17 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal  
18 Communications Commission shall prescribe such  
19 regulations as are necessary to implement the  
20 amendments made by subsection (a), which shall—

21 (A) define categories of entities engaged in  
22 manufacturing, importing into the United  
23 States, maintaining, operating, or providing ap-  
24 plications, plugins, or other software for appa-  
25 ratus and navigation devices; and

1 (B) apportion the responsibilities for com-  
2 pliance with subsections (u), (z), and (aa) of  
3 section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934  
4 (47 U.S.C. 303) among the entities defined by  
5 the Commission under paragraph (1)—

6 (i) to ensure full access by viewers via  
7 all entities and combinations of entities re-  
8 sponsible for digital apparatus and naviga-  
9 tion devices; and

10 (ii) to ensure that the regulations can  
11 be enforced effectively against responsible  
12 parties.

## 13 **TITLE III—COMMUNICATIONS** 14 **SERVICES**

### 15 **SEC. 301. VIDEO CONFERENCING.**

16 The Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et  
17 seq.) is amended—

18 (1) in section 3 (47 U.S.C. 153), as amended  
19 by section 101—

20 (A) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking  
21 “interoperable”;

22 (B) by striking paragraph (26), as so re-  
23 designated by section 101;

24 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (27)  
25 through (58), as so redesignated by section

1           101, as paragraphs (26) through (57), respec-  
2           tively;

3           (D) by redesignating paragraph (57), as so  
4           redesignated by subparagraph (C), as para-  
5           graph (60); and

6           (E) by inserting after paragraph (56), as  
7           so redesignated by subparagraph (C), the fol-  
8           lowing:

9           “(57) VIDEO CONFERENCING SERVICE.—The  
10          term ‘video conferencing service’ means a service  
11          that provides real-time video communications, in-  
12          cluding audio, to enable users to share information  
13          of the user’s choosing.

14          “(58) VISUAL IMAGE DESCRIPTIVE  
15          FUNCTIONALITY.—The term ‘visual image descrip-  
16          tive functionality’ means functionality that generates  
17          real-time descriptions of visual information, includ-  
18          ing images and text, for the purpose of conveying  
19          those descriptions to individuals with disabilities.

20          “(59) VISUAL IMAGE DESCRIPTIVE SERVICE.—  
21          The term ‘visual image descriptive service’ means a  
22          third party service that provides visual image de-  
23          scriptive functionality.”; and

24          (2) in section 716(e) (47 U.S.C. 617(e)), by  
25          adding at the end the following:

1           “(3) REVISION OF REGULATIONS; VIDEO CON-  
2           FERENCING SERVICES.—Not later than 18 months  
3           after the date on which the Advanced Communica-  
4           tions Services Advisory Committee submits the re-  
5           port required under section 304(f)(1) of the Commu-  
6           nications, Video, and Technology Accessibility Act of  
7           2023, the Commission shall revise the regulations  
8           promulgated under this subsection to—

9           “(A) require that all obligations applicable  
10          to advanced communications services, and  
11          equipment used for advanced communications  
12          services, extend to video conferencing services  
13          and equipment used for video conferencing serv-  
14          ices;

15          “(B) require that all advanced communica-  
16          tions services and equipment capable of pro-  
17          viding or enabling video conferencing services—

18               “(i) have built-in closed captioning  
19               functionality using automatic speech rec-  
20               ognition or similar or successor tech-  
21               nologies;

22               “(ii) to the extent technically feasible,  
23               have built-in automated visual image  
24               functionality;



1           “(iii) implement application program-  
2           ming interfaces or similar technical mecha-  
3           nisms to allow the interconnection of, and  
4           achieve compatibility with, assistive tech-  
5           nologies and services, peripheral devices,  
6           and specialized customer premises equip-  
7           ment commonly used by individuals with  
8           disabilities to achieve access, including—

9                   “(I) third-party captioning serv-  
10                  ices;

11                  “(II) third-party sign language  
12                  interpreting services;

13                  “(III) visual image descriptive  
14                  services;

15                  “(IV) telecommunications relay  
16                  services that have been approved by  
17                  the Commission under section 225;

18                  “(V) screen-readers for all user  
19                  interface elements and visual informa-  
20                  tion, including presentations, videos,  
21                  and interactive documents shared dur-  
22                  ing video conference calls;

23                  “(VI) refreshable braille displays  
24                  and other devices used for the tactile  
25                  conveyance of interface elements and

1 visual information, including presen-  
2 tations, videos, and interactive docu-  
3 ments shared during video conference  
4 calls; and

5 “(VII) hands-free technologies  
6 and voice control technologies;

7 “(iv) enable users and telecommuni-  
8 cations relay service communications as-  
9 sistants to control the activation and de-ac-  
10 tivation, and customize the display, of cap-  
11 tions, video interpreters, and communica-  
12 tions assistants independently from hosts  
13 of video conferencing sessions;

14 “(v) provide a simplified user inter-  
15 face that is accessible to individuals with  
16 cognitive disabilities, including, if achiev-  
17 able, a simplified, secure modality for initi-  
18 ating and authenticating a video confer-  
19 encing session; and

20 “(vi) provide instructional materials  
21 for activating a video conferencing session  
22 with plain and simple language and iconog-  
23 raphy that is accessible to individuals with  
24 cognitive disabilities;

1           “(C) adopt quality requirements for built-  
 2           in closed captioning functionality to facilitate  
 3           effective communication under subparagraph  
 4           (B)(i); and

5           “(D) adopt quality requirements for built-  
 6           in automated visual image descriptive  
 7           functionality to facilitate effective communica-  
 8           tion under subparagraph (B)(ii).”.

9 **SEC. 302. RELAY SERVICES.**

10       The Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et  
 11 seq.), as amended by this Act, is amended—

12           (1) in section 225 (47 U.S.C. 225)—

13               (A) in subsection (a)—

14                   (i) by redesignating paragraphs (2)  
 15                   and (3) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respec-  
 16                   tively;

17                   (ii) by inserting after paragraph (1)  
 18                   the following:

19           “(2) **COMMUNICATION FACILITATOR.**—The term  
 20           ‘communication facilitator’ means a skilled user of  
 21           American Sign Language who is able to facilitate  
 22           the ability of a DeafBlind person to engage in trans-  
 23           mission and other services described in this section  
 24           by conveying the information provided during the  
 25           use of those services to the DeafBlind person

1 through close vision or tactile American Sign Lan-  
2 guage.

3 “(3) DEAF INTERPRETER.—The term ‘Deaf in-  
4 terpreter’ means an individual who—

5 “(A) is deaf or hard of hearing;

6 “(B) possesses native or near-native flu-  
7 ency in American Sign Language; and

8 “(C) has specialized training or experience  
9 to assist in providing functionally equivalent  
10 sign language interpretation for an individual  
11 using American Sign Language in a situation  
12 that—

13 “(i) requires linguistic or cultural me-  
14 diation;

15 “(ii) may be highly complex in nature;  
16 or

17 “(iii) may involve individuals who face  
18 linguistic challenges, such as through  
19 atypical language use, language depriva-  
20 tion, or idiosyncratic signing styles.

21 “(4) DIRECT VIDEO CALLING SERVICE.—The  
22 term ‘direct video calling service’ means telephone  
23 customer support using one-to-one video communica-  
24 tion that—

1           “(A) is facilitated by a contact center rep-  
2           resentative; and

3           “(B) enables a real-time conversation to  
4           occur directly between not fewer than 2 parties  
5           using American Sign Language—

6                   “(i) not less than 1 of the parties to  
7                   which is a governmental agency, business,  
8                   non-profit organization, emergency author-  
9                   ity, or other enterprise; and

10                   “(ii) not less than 1 of the parties to  
11                   which—

12                           “(I) is deaf, hard of hearing, or  
13                           DeafBlind; or

14                           “(II) has a speech disability or  
15                           auditory processing disorder.”; and

16                           (iii) by striking paragraph (6), as so  
17                           redesignated, and inserting the following:

18                   “(6) TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERV-  
19                   ICES.—The term ‘telecommunications relay services’  
20                   means—

21                           “(A) transmission services that provide the  
22                           ability for an individual who is deaf, hard of  
23                           hearing, or DeafBlind, or who has a speech dis-  
24                           ability or an auditory processing disorder, to  
25                           engage in communication by wire or radio with

1           1 or more individuals, in a manner that is func-  
 2           tionally equivalent to (or, if technically feasible,  
 3           equal to) the ability of a hearing individual who  
 4           does not have a speech disability to commu-  
 5           nicate using voice communication services or  
 6           advanced communications services by wire or  
 7           radio; and

8           “(B) other services facilitating functionally  
 9           equivalent communication by wire or radio for  
 10          an individual who is deaf, hard of hearing, or  
 11          DeafBlind, or who has a speech disability or an  
 12          auditory processing disorder, including the pro-  
 13          vision of communication facilitators for an indi-  
 14          vidual who is DeafBlind and the provision of di-  
 15          rect video calling services for a call center to fa-  
 16          cilitate point-to-point communication in Amer-  
 17          ican Sign Language between government agen-  
 18          cies, businesses, emergency authorities, or other  
 19          enterprises and users of American Sign Lan-  
 20          guage.”; and

21          (B) in subsection (d), by adding at the end  
 22          the following:

23          “(4) AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE ACCESS TO  
 24          EMERGENCY SERVICES; COMMUNICATION  
 25          FACILITATORS; DIRECT VIDEO CALLING SERVICES.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years  
2 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,  
3 the Commission shall promulgate such regula-  
4 tions as are necessary to—

5           “(i) define as eligible for relay service  
6 support from the fund described in section  
7 64.604(c)(5)(iii) of title 47, Code of Fed-  
8 eral Regulations, as in effect on that date  
9 of enactment—

10           “(I) programs that are approved  
11 by the Commission to support direct  
12 video calling services;

13           “(II) programs that are approved  
14 by the Commission to support the  
15 provision of communication  
16 facilitators;

17           “(III) the expenses associated  
18 with the provision of a Deaf inter-  
19 preter when necessary to provide func-  
20 tional equivalency for a party on a call  
21 using video relay service, as defined in  
22 section 64.601(a)(51) of title 47, Code  
23 of Federal Regulations, or any suc-  
24 cessor regulation;

1                   “(IV) programs that are de-  
2                   signed, in accordance with subpara-  
3                   graph (B), to improve access to emer-  
4                   gency authorities by users of video  
5                   relay services and direct video calling  
6                   services to achieve the objectives de-  
7                   scribed in clause (ii); and

8                   “(V) expenses approved by the  
9                   Commission to interconnect with video  
10                  conferencing services;

11                  “(ii) achieve full, equal, and direct ac-  
12                  cess to public safety answering points, as  
13                  that term is defined in section 222(h), and  
14                  other local emergency authorities, includ-  
15                  ing emergency authorities responding to  
16                  wireless calls made by dialing 9–1–1, by  
17                  individuals who—

18                         “(I) are deaf, hard of hearing, or  
19                         DeafBlind, or who have a speech dis-  
20                         ability or a cognitive disability; and

21                         “(II) use American Sign Lan-  
22                         guage;

23                         “(iii) ensure that a person can have a  
24                         single telephone number for the purpose of  
25                         receiving calls and messages from other en-



1           tities calling by means of video relay serv-  
2           ices or voice or electronic text messaging  
3           services; and

4           “(iv) ensure that all telecommuni-  
5           cations relay services can directly and na-  
6           tively interconnect with video conferencing  
7           services and the public switched telephone  
8           network.

9           “(B) CONTENTS.—The regulations de-  
10          scribed in subparagraph (A)(i)(IV) shall, at a  
11          minimum, require that users communicating by  
12          means of a video relay service, as that term is  
13          defined in section 64.601 of title 47, Code of  
14          Federal Regulations, or any successor regula-  
15          tion, shall be capable of using native dialing or  
16          1-step access on a mobile phone so that such  
17          communication—

18               “(i) includes the location information  
19               of the user, to be transmitted and delivered  
20               immediate and directly to the applicable  
21               emergency authority; and

22               “(ii) is received by the applicable  
23               emergency authority with the same speed  
24               and efficiency as a voice call made by dial-  
25               ing 9–1–1.

1           “(5) REASSESSMENT OF AVAILABLE SERVICES  
 2           AND MINIMUM STANDARDS.—Not later than 4 years  
 3           after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and  
 4           once every 4 years thereafter, the Commission shall,  
 5           as necessary to respond to evolving communication  
 6           technologies, reassess and, as necessary, update the  
 7           regulations prescribed under this subsection to en-  
 8           sure that those regulations effectively satisfy the  
 9           communication needs of individuals with disabilities  
 10          who are covered by this Act, including by—

11                   “(A) assessing the need for new modes of  
 12                   telecommunications relay services;

13                   “(B) increasing and improving the manda-  
 14                   tory minimum standards to ensure the quality  
 15                   of telecommunications relay services; and

16                   “(C) assessing the impact that evolving  
 17                   communication technologies have on the privacy  
 18                   of users of telecommunications relay services.”;

19                   and

20                   (2) by inserting after section 715 (47 U.S.C.  
 21                   616) the following:

22           **“SEC. 715A. VIDEO CONFERENCING SERVICES’ SUPPORT OF**  
 23                   **RELAY SERVICES.**

24                   “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘TRS  
 25                   Fund’ means the fund described in 64.604(c)(5)(iii) of

1 title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the  
2 date of enactment of this section.

3 “(b) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the  
4 date of enactment of this section, each provider of video  
5 conferencing services shall participate in, and contribute  
6 to, the TRS Fund in a manner prescribed by the Commis-  
7 sion by regulation to provide for obligations of those pro-  
8 viders that are consistent with, and comparable to, the ob-  
9 ligations of other contributors to the TRS Fund.

10 “(c) USE OF AMOUNTS.—The Commission shall use  
11 contributions made under subsection (b) to carry out the  
12 program under subpart GG of part 64 of title 47, Code  
13 of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enact-  
14 ment of this section.”

15 **SEC. 303. NATIONAL DEAFBLIND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.**  
16

17 Section 719 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
18 U.S.C. 620) is amended—

19 (1) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and in-  
20 serting the following:

21 “(a) UPDATED REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18  
22 months after the date of enactment of the Communica-  
23 tions, Video, and Technology Accessibility Act of 2023, the  
24 Commission shall update the rules under section 64.610  
25 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor

1 regulation, to define as eligible for telecommunications  
2 relay service support those programs that are approved  
3 by the Commission for the distribution of specialized cus-  
4 tomer premises equipment and software designed to make  
5 telecommunications service, internet access service, and  
6 advanced communications, including interexchange serv-  
7 ices and advanced telecommunications and information  
8 services, accessible to individuals who are DeafBlind.

9 “(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘indi-  
10 vidual who is DeafBlind’—

11 “(1) has the meaning given the term ‘individual  
12 who is deaf-blind’ in section 206(2) of the Helen  
13 Keller National Center Act (29 U.S.C. 1905(2)), as  
14 amended by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of  
15 1992; and

16 “(2) includes an individual who—

17 “(A) for the purposes of satisfying sub-  
18 paragraph (A)(i) of such section 206(2), has  
19 been diagnosed with a cortical or cerebral visual  
20 impairment;

21 “(B) for the purposes of satisfying sub-  
22 paragraph (A)(ii) of such section 206(2), has  
23 been diagnosed with an auditory processing dis-  
24 order; or

1           “(C) for the purposes of satisfying sub-  
2           paragraphs (A)(i) and (A)(ii) of such section  
3           206(2), has been diagnosed with both a cortical  
4           or cerebral visual impairment and an auditory  
5           processing disorder.”; and

6           (2) in subsection (c), by striking “\$10,000,000”  
7           and inserting “\$20,000,000, which the Commission  
8           shall adjust annually for inflation using an inflation  
9           factor determined by the Commission”.

10 **SEC. 304. ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES ADVI-**  
11 **SORY COMMITTEE.**

12           (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13           (1) ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES;  
14           VIDEO CONFERENCING SERVICE; VISUAL IMAGE DE-  
15           SCRIPTIVE FUNCTIONALITY; VISUAL IMAGE DESCRIP-  
16           TIVE SERVICE.—The terms “advanced communica-  
17           tions services”, “video conferencing service”, “visual  
18           image descriptive functionality”, and “visual image  
19           descriptive service” have the meanings given the  
20           terms in section 3 of the Communications Act of  
21           1934 (47 U.S.C. 153), as amended by this Act.

22           (2) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term “Advi-  
23           sory Committee” means the Advanced Communica-  
24           tions Services Advisory Committee established under  
25           subsection (b).

1           (3) CHAIR.—The term “Chair” means the  
2 Chair of the Commission.

3           (4) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”  
4 means the Federal Communications Commission.

5           (5) TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICES.—  
6 The term “telecommunications relay services” has  
7 the meaning given the term in section 225(a) of the  
8 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 225(a)), as  
9 amended by this Act.

10          (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after  
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the Chair shall establish  
12 an advisory committee to be known as the Advanced Com-  
13 munications Services Advisory Committee.

14          (c) MEMBERSHIP.—As soon as practicable after the  
15 date on which the Chair establishes the Advisory Com-  
16 mittee, the Chair shall appoint individuals who have the  
17 technical knowledge and engineering expertise to serve on  
18 the Advisory Committee in the fulfillment of the duties  
19 of the Advisory Committee, including the following:

20           (1) Representatives of entities involved in the  
21 provision of video conferencing services (or a na-  
22 tional organization representing such entities).

23           (2) Representatives of vendors, developers, and  
24 manufacturers of systems, facilities, equipment, and  
25 capabilities for the provision of video conferencing

1 services (or a national organization representing  
2 such vendors, developers, or manufacturers).

3 (3) Representatives of vendors, developers, and  
4 manufacturers of systems, facilities, equipment, and  
5 capabilities for the provision of assistive technologies  
6 used with video conferencing services (or a national  
7 organization representing such vendors, developers,  
8 or manufacturers).

9 (4) Representatives of manufacturers of con-  
10 sumer electronics or information technology equip-  
11 ment engaged in the provision of video conferencing  
12 services (or a national organization representing  
13 such manufacturers).

14 (5) Representatives of national organizations  
15 representing accessibility advocates, including people  
16 with disabilities and older Americans.

17 (6) Representatives of service agencies engaged  
18 in the provision of captioning, interpretation serv-  
19 ices, and visual image descriptive services for video  
20 conferencing services.

21 (7) Representatives of providers of tele-  
22 communications relay services.

23 (8) Academic experts or representatives of re-  
24 search institutions with expertise regarding ad-  
25 vanced communication services.

1           (9) Individuals with technical and engineering  
2 expertise, as the Chair determines appropriate.

3           (d) COMMISSION OVERSIGHT.—The Chair shall ap-  
4 point a member of the staff of the Commission to mod-  
5 erate and direct the work of the Advisory Committee.

6           (e) TECHNICAL STAFF.—The Chair shall appoint a  
7 member of the technical staff of the Commission to pro-  
8 vide technical assistance to the Advisory Committee.

9           (f) DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—

10           (1) ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES RE-  
11 PORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on  
12 which the Advisory Committee first meets, the Advi-  
13 sory Committee shall submit to the Commission a  
14 report that, subject to paragraph (2), includes the  
15 following:

16           (A) A recommended schedule of deadlines  
17 for—

18           (i) making video conferencing services  
19 and equipment accessible to individuals  
20 with disabilities; and

21           (ii) compliance with quality metrics  
22 and thresholds for automatic closed cap-  
23 tioning and visual image descriptive  
24 functionality that is built into video confer-  
25 encing services and equipment.



1 (B) An identification of the protocols, tech-  
2 nical capabilities, and technical procedures  
3 needed to—

4 (i) permit video conferencing services  
5 to include built-in closed captioning  
6 functionality; and

7 (ii) allow the interconnection of, and  
8 compatibility with, assistive technologies  
9 and services, peripheral devices, and spe-  
10 cialized customer premises equipment com-  
11 monly used by individuals with disabilities  
12 to achieve access.

13 (C) A recommendation for technical stand-  
14 ards to address the protocols, technical capabili-  
15 ties, and technical procedures identified under  
16 subparagraph (B).

17 (D) A recommendation for standards to be  
18 used to ensure that the quality of built-in closed  
19 captioning functionality for video conferencing  
20 services facilitates effective communication.

21 (2) CONSIDERATION OF WORK BY STANDARDS-  
22 SETTING ORGANIZATIONS.—The recommendations of  
23 the Advisory Committee contained in the report sub-  
24 mitted under paragraph (1) shall, to the extent pos-  
25 sible, incorporate the standards, protocols, and pro-

1 cedures that have been adopted by recognized indus-  
2 try standard-setting organizations for each of the  
3 purposes described in that paragraph.

4 (g) MEETINGS.—

5 (1) INITIAL MEETING.—The initial meeting of  
6 the Advisory Committee shall take place not later  
7 than 45 days after the date on which the Chair ap-  
8 points the members of the Advisory Committee  
9 under subsection (c).

10 (2) OTHER MEETINGS.—After the initial meet-  
11 ing of the Advisory Committee under paragraph (1),  
12 the Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the  
13 Chair.

14 (3) NOTICE; OPEN MEETINGS.—Each meeting  
15 held by the Advisory Committee shall be—

16 (A) noticed not fewer than 14 days before  
17 the date of that meeting; and

18 (B) open to the public.

19 (h) PROCEDURAL RULES.—

20 (1) QUORUM.—The presence of  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the mem-  
21 bers of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a  
22 quorum for conducting the business of the Advisory  
23 Committee.

24 (2) SUBCOMMITTEES.—To assist the Advisory  
25 Committee in carrying out the functions of the Advi-

1 sory Committee, the Chair may establish appropriate  
2 subcommittees composed of members of the Advisory  
3 Committee and other subject matter experts.

4 (3) ADDITIONAL PROCEDURAL RULES.—The  
5 Advisory Committee may adopt other procedural  
6 rules as needed.

7 (i) INAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COM-  
8 MITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5  
9 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply with respect to the Advisory  
10 Committee or the activities of the Advisory Committee.

11 **SEC. 305. REAL-TIME TEXT.**

12 Title VII of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
13 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section  
14 716 (47 U.S.C. 617) the following:

15 **“SEC. 716A. REAL-TIME TEXT.**

16 “Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment  
17 of this section, the Commission shall revise the regulations  
18 of the Commission to require that all interconnected and  
19 non-interconnected VoIP services, whether delivered using  
20 wireless or wireline infrastructure, enable, so long as it  
21 is achievable (as defined in section 716)—

22 “(1) the delivery of real-time text with other  
23 wireless and wireline VoIP services; and

1           “(2) connectivity of real-time text to public  
2           safety answering points, as defined in section  
3           222(h).”.

4 **SEC. 306. ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES SOFT-**  
5 **WARE.**

6           Section 716(e) of the Communications Act of 1934  
7 (47 U.S.C. 617(e)) is amended by adding at the end the  
8 following:

9           “(3) REVISION OF REGULATIONS.—Not later  
10          than 1 year after the date of enactment of this para-  
11          graph, the Commission shall update the regulations  
12          prescribed under this subsection to require that all  
13          obligations applicable to equipment used for ad-  
14          vanced communications services extend to software  
15          used for those services, without regard to whether  
16          that software is pre-installed on equipment used for  
17          those services.”.

18                           **TITLE IV—EMERGING**  
19                           **TECHNOLOGY**

20 **SEC. 401. EMERGING TECHNOLOGY.**

21           Title VII of the Communications Act of 1934 (42  
22 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the  
23 following:

24 **“SEC. 723. EMERGING TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY.**

25           “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           “(1) AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COM-  
2           MUNICATION.—The term ‘augmentative and alter-  
3           native communication’ means any tool, method, tech-  
4           nology, strategy, service, training, coaching, or other  
5           support used to supplement or replace speech.

6           “(2) DISABILITY.—The term ‘disability’ has the  
7           meaning given the term in section 3 of the Ameri-  
8           cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
9           12102).

10          “(b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3  
11         years after the date of enactment of this section, and every  
12         5 years thereafter, the Commission shall, in consultation  
13         with the United States Access Board, submit to the Com-  
14         mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the  
15         Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of  
16         the House of Representatives a report assessing—

17                 “(1) the extent to which any accessibility bar-  
18                 riers exist for individuals with disabilities, including  
19                 individuals who are blind, deaf, or DeafBlind or have  
20                 low vision, an auditory processing disorder, a cor-  
21                 tical or cerebral visual impairment, a speech dis-  
22                 ability, including individuals who use augmentative  
23                 and alternative communication, a mobility disability,  
24                 or a cognitive disability, with respect to emerging  
25                 communications and video programming technologies

1 and services, including communication and video  
2 programming technologies that use augmented re-  
3 ality, virtual reality, extended reality, dual reality,  
4 spatial computing, artificial intelligence, and other  
5 advanced machine learning, wireless technologies, in-  
6 cluding Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, robotics, the Internet  
7 of Things, and other forms of advanced computing  
8 power; and

9 “(2) solutions needed to ensure that new or  
10 emerging communications and video programming  
11 technologies and services such as those described in  
12 paragraph (1)—

13 “(A) are accessible to individuals with dis-  
14 abilities; and

15 “(B) provide the necessary hardware and  
16 software to achieve compatibility with periph-  
17 eral devices or specialized customer premises  
18 equipment commonly used by individuals with  
19 disabilities to achieve access.

20 “(c) CONSIDERATION OF EFFECT ON INDIVIDUALS  
21 WITH PARTICULAR BARRIERS.—In preparing each report  
22 required under subsection (b), the Commission shall con-  
23 sider the effect of emerging technologies on individuals  
24 with disabilities who use those technologies and have par-  
25 ticular barriers to participation and communication with

1 those technologies, including individuals with disabilities  
2 using those technologies—

3 “(1) who have limited language or limited  
4 English language;

5 “(2) who have significant, targeted, or multiple  
6 disabilities, including individuals who have a speech  
7 disability, including individuals who use augment-  
8 ative and alternative communication, individuals who  
9 are DeafBlind, and individuals who have mobility  
10 disabilities;

11 “(3) who have disabilities limiting communica-  
12 tion;

13 “(4) who lack access to broadband services and  
14 technology; or

15 “(5) who face heightened barriers due to race,  
16 ethnicity, national origin, age, sex, sexual orienta-  
17 tion, gender identity, Tribal affiliation, or socio-  
18 economic status.

19 “(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 2 years after  
20 the date on which the Commission submits each report  
21 required under subsection (b), the Commission shall issue  
22 new or update existing regulations for ensuring the acces-  
23 sibility of emerging communications and video program-  
24 ming technologies and services by individuals with disabil-  
25 ities where doing so is necessary to further the goals of

1 the statutory provisions implemented by the regulations  
2 of the Commission under parts 6, 7, 14, and 79 of title  
3 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regula-  
4 tion, intended to fulfill these goals.”.

## 5 **TITLE V—ENFORCEMENT AND** 6 **REPORTING**

### 7 **SEC. 501. ACCESSIBILITY ENFORCEMENT.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 503(b)(5) of the Commu-  
9 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 503(b)(5)) is amended  
10 by inserting after “uses that tower” the following: “, or  
11 in the case of violations of this Act related to requirements  
12 of accessibility for individuals with disabilities, including  
13 violations of section 225, section 255, section  
14 276(b)(1)(A), subsections (u) through (aa) of section 303,  
15 section 330(b), section 710, section 711, section 713, or  
16 sections 715 through 719”.

17 (b) OTHER LAWS.—The violation of any provision of  
18 the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.),  
19 as amended by this Act, related to requirements of accessi-  
20 bility for individuals with disabilities, including a violation  
21 of section 225, section 255, section 276(b)(1)(A), sub-  
22 sections (u) through (aa) of section 303, section 330(b),  
23 section 710, section 711, section 713, or sections 715  
24 through 719 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
25 U.S.C. 225, 255, 276(b)(1)(A), 303, 330(b), 610, 611,



1 613, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620), shall not be used as a  
2 basis to preclude enforcement of violations of other State  
3 or Federal disability rights and civil rights laws, including  
4 the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
5 12101 et seq.) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29  
6 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), stemming from the same conduct.

7 **SEC. 502. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

8 Title VII of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
9 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), as amended by section 401 of this  
10 Act, is amended—

11 (1) in section 717 (47 U.S.C. 618)—

12 (A) by striking subsection (b);

13 (B) by redesignating subsections (c), (d),  
14 and (e) as subsections (b), (c), and (d), respec-  
15 tively; and

16 (C) in subsection (d), as so redesignated,  
17 by striking “subsection (d)” and inserting “sub-  
18 section (c)”;

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 **“SEC. 724. ACCESSIBILITY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

21 “Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment  
22 of this section, and every 2 years thereafter, the Commis-  
23 sion shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
24 and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on

1 Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives  
2 a report that includes the following:

3           “(1) The number and nature of complaints re-  
4           ceived pursuant to subsection (u), (z), or (aa) of sec-  
5           tion 303, section 330(b), section 713, and section  
6           716(a) during the period covered by the report.

7           “(2) A description of the actions taken to re-  
8           solve the complaints described in paragraph (1), in-  
9           cluding forfeiture penalties assessed.

10           “(3) The length of time that was taken by the  
11           Commission to resolve each such complaint.

12           “(4) The number, status, nature, and outcome  
13           of each action for mandamus filed pursuant to sec-  
14           tion 717(a)(6) and the number, status, nature, and  
15           outcome of each appeal filed pursuant to section  
16           402(b)(10).”.

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