

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 624

To allow servicemembers to terminate their cable, satellite television, and Internet access service contracts while deployed.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 14, 2017

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To allow servicemembers to terminate their cable, satellite television, and Internet access service contracts while deployed.

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. TERMINATION OF MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PRO-**
4 **GRAMMING AND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE**
5 **CONTRACTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 305A of the
7 Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3956) is
8 amended—

1 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “, **MUL-**
 2 **TICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING, AND**
 3 **INTERNET ACCESS**” after “**TELEPHONE**”;

4 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “cellular tele-
 5 phone service or telephone exchange service” and in-
 6 serting “commercial mobile service, telephone ex-
 7 change service, Internet access service, or multi-
 8 channel video programming service”;

9 (3) in subsection (c), by inserting “for commer-
 10 cial mobile service or telephone exchange service” be-
 11 fore “terminated”;

12 (4) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding
 13 paragraph (1), by striking “cellular telephone serv-
 14 ice” and inserting “commercial mobile service”;

15 (5) in subsection (e)—

16 (A) by striking “For any” and inserting
 17 the following:

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For any”;

19 (B) by striking “If the” and inserting the
 20 following:

21 “(2) REINSTATEMENT OF SERVICE.—If the”;

22 and

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

24 “(3) RETURN OF PROVIDER-OWNED EQUIP-
 25 MENT.—If a servicemember terminates a contract

1 under subsection (a), the servicemember shall return
2 any provider-owned consumer premises equipment to
3 the service provider not later than 10 days after the
4 date on which service is disconnected.”; and

5 (6) in subsection (g)—

6 (A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
7 paragraph (4); and

8 (B) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
9 ing the following:

10 “(1) The term ‘commercial mobile service’ has
11 the meaning given that term in section 332(d) of the
12 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)).

13 “(2) The term ‘multichannel video program-
14 ming service’ means a subscription video service of-
15 fered by a multichannel video programming dis-
16 tributor, as that term is defined in section 602 of
17 the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 522),
18 over a system the distributor owns or controls.

19 “(3) The term ‘provider-owned consumer prem-
20 ises equipment’ means any equipment that a pro-
21 vider of Internet access service or multichannel video
22 programming service rents or loans to a customer
23 during the provision of that service, including gate-
24 ways, routers, cable modems, voice-capable modems,

1 CableCARDS, converters, digital adapters, remote
 2 controls, and any other equipment provided.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

4 (1) TITLE HEADING.—The heading for title III
 5 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act is amended
 6 by striking “**TELEPHONE**” and inserting
 7 “**COMMUNICATIONS**”.

8 (2) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of con-
 9 tents in section 1(b) of the Servicemembers Civil Re-
 10 lief Act is amended—

11 (A) by striking the item relating to title III
 12 and inserting the following:

“TITLE III—RENT, INSTALLMENT CONTRACTS, MORTGAGES,
 LIENS, ASSIGNMENT, LEASES, COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE CON-
 TRACTS”;

13 and

14 (B) by striking the item relating to section
 15 305A and inserting the following:

“Sec. 305A. Termination of telephone, multichannel video programming, and
 Internet access service contracts.”.

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