Integrated Cable Act: Communications Act of 1934

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE VI — CABLE COMMUNICATIONS

Part I — General Provisions

Sec. 601. [47 U.S.C. 521] Purposes 214
Sec. 602. [47 U.S.C. 522] Definitions 214

Part II — Use of Cable Channels and Cable Ownership Restrictions

Sec. 611. [47 U.S.C. 531] Cable Channels for Public, Educational, or Governmental Use 215
(a) Authority to establish requirements with respect to designation or use of channel capacity 215
(b) Authority to require designation for public, educational, or governmental use 215
(c) Enforcement authority 215
(d) Promulgation of rules and procedures 215
(e) Editorial control by cable operator 215
(f) “Institutional network” defined 215

(a) Purpose 215
(b) Designation of channel capacity for commercial use 215
(c) Use of channel capacity by unaffiliated persons; editorial control; restriction on service 215
(d) Right of action in district court; relief; factors not to be considered by court 216
(e) Petition to Commission; relief 217
(f) Presumption of reasonableness and good faith 217
(g) Promulgation of rules 217
(h) Indecent/obscene programming on leased access channels 217
(i) Minority programming on leased access channels 217
(j) Commission rulemaking on commercial leased access 217

Sec. 613. [47 U.S.C. 533] Limitations on Ownership, Control, and Utilization 218
(a) Persons owning or controlling television station licensee 218
(b) Eliminated 218
(c) Promulgation of rules 218
(d) Regulation of ownership by States or franchising authorities 218
(e) Holding of ownership interests or exercise of editorial control by States or franchising authorities 218
(f) Commission rulemaking on vertical ownership restrictions 218
(g) Combination of interests under prior law 219
(h) Media of mass communications’ defined 219

(a) Carriage obligations 219
(b) Signals required 219
(c) Low power station carriage obligation 219
(d) Remedies 221
(e) Input selector switch rules abolished 221
(f) Regulations by commission 221
(g) Sales presentations and program length commercials 221
(h) Definitions of ‘local commercial television station’ and ‘qualified low power station’ 221

(a) Carriage obligations 223
(b) Requirements To Carry Qualified Stations 223
(c) Continued carriage of existing stations 223
(d) Placement of Additional Signals 223
(e) Systems With More Than 36 Channel 223
(f) Waiver of Nonduplication Rights 224
(g) Conditions of carriage 224
(h) Availability of signals 224
(i) Payment for carriage prohibited 224
(j) Remedies 224
(k) Identification of signals 225
(l) Definitions 225

Sec. 616. [47 U.S.C. 536] Regulation of Carriage Agreements 225
(a) Regulations 225
(b) Definition of ‘video programming vendor’ 225

Sec. 617. [47 U.S.C. 537] Sales of Cable Systems 226

Part III — Franchising and Regulation

Sec. 621. [47 U.S.C. 541] General Franchise Requirements 226
(a) Authority to award franchises; public rights-of-way and easements; equal access to service 226
(b) No cable service without franchise; exception under prior law 226
(c) Status of cable system as common carrier or utility 226
(d) Informational tariffs; regulation by States; ‘State’ defined 227
(e) State regulation of facilities serving subscribers in multiple dwelling units 227
(f) Municipal franchises 227
Sec. 622. [47 U.S.C. 542] Franchise Fees
(a) Payment under terms of franchise
(b) Amount of fees per annum
(c) Line items on subscribers' bills for franchise fee, PEG support, taxes and other fees and assessments
(d) Court actions; reflection of costs in rate structures
(e) Decreases passed through to subscribers
(f) Itemization of franchise fee in bill
(g) 'Franchise fee' defined
(h) Uncompensated services; taxes; fees and other assessments; limitation on fees
(i) Regulatory authority of federal agencies

Sec. 623. [47 U.S.C. 543] Regulation of Rates
(a) Competition preference; local and federal regulation
(b) Establishment of basic service tier rate regulations
(c) Regulation of unreasonable rates
(d) Uniform rate structure required
(e) Discrimination; services for the hearing impaired
(f) Negative option billing prohibited
(g) Collection of information
(h) Prevention of evasions
(i) Small system burdens
(j) Rate regulation agreements
(k) Reports on average prices
(l) Definitions of 'effective competition' and 'cable programming service'
(m) Special Rules for small companies
(n) Treatment of prior year losses

Sec. 624. [47 U.S.C. 544] Regulation of Services, Facilities, and Equipment
(a) Regulation by franchising authority
(b) Requests for proposals; establishment and enforcement of requirements
(c) Enforcement authority respecting franchises effective under prior law
(d) Indecent/obscene programming; lock box and preview
(e) Technical standards
(f) Limitation on regulatory powers of Federal agencies, States, or franchising authorities; exceptions
(g) Emergency broadcast system
(h) Changes in channel assignment, video programming
(i) Commission rulemaking on inside wiring

Sec. 624A. Consumer Electronics Equipment Compatibility
(a) Findings
(b) Compatible interfaces
(c) Rulemaking requirements
(d) Review of regulations
Sec. 625. [47 U.S.C. 545] Modification of Franchise Obligations

(a) Grounds for modification by franchising authority; public proceeding; time of decision

(b) Judicial proceedings; grounds for modification by court

(c) Rearrangement, replacement, or removal of service

(d) Rearrangement of particular services from one service tier to another or other offering of service

(e) Requirements for services relating to public, educational, or governmental access

(f) ‘Commercially impracticable’ defined

Sec. 626. [47 U.S.C. 546] Franchise Renewal

(a) Commencement of renewal process

(b) Submission of renewal proposals; contents; time

(c) Notice of proposal; renewal; preliminary assessment of nonrenewal; administrative review; issues; notice and opportunity for hearing; transcript; written decision

(d) Basis for denial

(e) Judicial review; grounds for relief

(f) Finality of administrative decision

(g) ‘Franchise expiration’ defined

(h) Alternative renewal procedures

(i) Effect of revocation of franchise for cause upon initiation of renewal proceeding by operator

Sec. 627. [47 U.S.C. 547] Conditions of Sale


(a) Purpose

(b) Prohibition

(c) Regulations required

(d) Adjudicatory proceeding

(e) Remedies for violations

(f) Procedures

(g) Reports

(h) Exemptions for prior contracts

(i) Definitions

(j) Common Carriers

Sec. 629. [47 U.S.C. 549] Competitive availability of Navigation Devices

(a) Commercial consumer availability of equipment used to access services provided by multichannel video programming distributors

(b) Protection of system security

(c) Waiver

(d) Avoidance of redundant regulations

(e) Sunset

(f) Commission’s Authority

Part IV —Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 631. [47 U.S.C. 551] Protection of Subscriber Privacy

(a) Notice to subscriber regarding personally identifiable information; ‘personally identifiable’ defined

(b) Collection of personally identifiable information using cable system

(c) Disclosure of personally identifiable information

(d) Subscriber access to information

(e) Destruction of information

(f) Civil action in United States district court; damages; attorneys’ fees and costs; nonexclusive nature of remedy

(g) Regulation by States or franchising authorities

(h) Disclosure of information to governmental entity pursuant to court order


(a) Franchising authority enforcement

(b) Commission standards

(c) Subscriber notice

(d) Consumer protection laws and customer service agreements

Sec. 633 [47 U.S.C. 553] Unauthorized Reception of Cable Service

(a) Unauthorized interception or receipt or assistance in intercepting or receiving service; ‘assist in intercepting or receiving’ defined

(b) Penalties for willful violation

(c) Civil action in district court; injunctions; damages; attorney’s fees and costs; regulation by States or franchising authorities


(a) Entities within scope of coverage

(b) Discrimination prohibited

(c) Equal opportunity programs; establishment; maintenance; execution; terms

(d) Promulgation and amendment of rules; required provisions; annual statistical report; notice and comment on amendments

(e) Annual certification of compliance; periodic investigation of employment practices

(f) Substantial failure to comply; penalties; notice to public and franchising authorities

(g) Discrimination complaints; investigation; enforcement

(h) ‘Cable operator’ defined to include owners of multiple unit dwellings; other multichannel video programming distributors included
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>635.</td>
<td>Judicial Proceedings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>635A.</td>
<td>Limitation of Franchising Authority Liability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>636.</td>
<td>Coordination of Federal, State, and Local Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>637.</td>
<td>Existing Franchises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>638.</td>
<td>Criminal and Civil Liability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>639.</td>
<td>Obscene Programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>640.</td>
<td>Scrambling of Cable Channels for Nonsubscribers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>641.</td>
<td>Scrambling of Sexually Explicit Adult Video Service Programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>651.</td>
<td>Regulatory Treatment of Video Programming Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>652.</td>
<td>Prohibition on Buy Outs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>653.</td>
<td>Establishment of Open Video Systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Regulatory powers of States and franchising authorities; nonexclusive nature of remedies and enforcement provisions; covered franchises


(a) Suits for damages prohibited

(b) Exception for completed cases

(c) Discrimination claims permitted

(d) Rule of construction

Sec. 635A. [47 U.S.C. 555a] Limitation of Franchising Authority Liability

(a) Suits for damages prohibited

(b) Exception for completed cases

(c) Discrimination claims permitted

(d) Rule of construction

Sec. 636. [47 U.S.C. 556] Coordination of Federal, State, and Local Authority

(a) Regulation by States of Federal, State, and local authority

(b) State jurisdiction with regard to cable services

(c) Preemption

(d) ‘State’ defined

Sec. 637. [47 U.S.C. 557] Existing Franchises

Sec. 638. [47 U.S.C. 558] Criminal and Civil Liability

Sec. 639. [47 U.S.C. 559] Obscene Programming

Sec. 640. (47 U.S.C. 560) Scrambling of Cable Channels for Nonsubscribers

(a) Subscriber Request

(b) Definition

Sec. 641. (47 U.S.C. 561) Scrambling of Sexually Explicit Adult Video Service Programming

(a) Requirement

(b) Implementation

(c) Definition

Sec. 651. (47 U.S.C. 571) Regulatory Treatment of Video Programming Services

(a) Limitations of Cable Regulation

(b) Limitations of Interconnect Obligations

(c) Additional Regulatory Relief

Sec. 652. (47 U.S.C. 572) Prohibition on Buy Outs

(a) Acquisitions by Carriers

(b) Acquisitions by Cable Operators

(c) Joint Ventures

(d) Exceptions

(e) Definition of Telephone Service Area

Sec. 653. (47 U.S.C. 573) Establishment of Open Video Systems

(a) Open Video Systems

(b) Commission Actions

(c) Reduced Regulating Burdens for Open Video Systems

(d) Definition of Telephone Service Area