

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H. R. 2409, With an  
Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a  
new text)**

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2409

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

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2017

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. KILMER) introduced the  
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. TERMINATION OF MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PRO-**  
2 **GRAMMING AND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE**  
3 **CONTRACTS.**

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

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

10 (2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the  
11 following new paragraph:

12 “(4) **ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS COVERED.**—For  
13 purposes of this section, the following individuals  
14 shall be treated as a servicemember covered by para-  
15 graph (1):

16 “(A) A spouse of a servicemember who  
17 dies while in military service or a spouse of a  
18 member of the reserve components who dies  
19 while performing duty described in subpara-  
20 graph (B).

21 “(B) A member of the reserve components  
22 performing military service or performing full-  
23 time National Guard duty, active Guard and  
24 Reserve duty, or inactive-duty training (as such  
25 terms are defined in section 101(d) of title 10,  
26 United States Code).”;

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

6           (4) in subsection (c), by inserting “for commer-  
7           cial mobile service or telephone exchange service” be-  
8           fore “terminated”;

9           (5) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding  
10          paragraph (1), by striking “cellular telephone serv-  
11          ice” and inserting “commercial mobile service”;

12          (6) in subsection (e)—

13               (A) by striking “For any” and inserting  
14               the following:

15               “(1) IN GENERAL.—For any”;

16               (B) by striking “If the” and inserting the  
17               following:

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

19          and

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

21               “(3) RETURN OF PROVIDER-OWNED EQUIP-  
22               MENT.—If a servicemember terminates a contract  
23               under subsection (a), the servicemember shall return  
24               any provider-owned consumer premises equipment to

1 the service provider not later than 10 days after the  
2 date on which service is disconnected.”; and

3 (7) in subsection (g)—

4 (A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as  
5 paragraph (4); and

6 (B) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-  
7 ing the following:

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

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

17 “(3) The term ‘provider-owned consumer prem-  
18 ises equipment’ means any equipment that a pro-  
19 vider of Internet access service or multichannel video  
20 programming service rents or loans to a customer  
21 during the provision of that service, including gate-  
22 ways, routers, cable modems, voice-capable modems,  
23 CableCARDS, converters, digital adapters, remote  
24 controls, and any other equipment provided.”.

25 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

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

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

8                   (A) by striking the item relating to title III  
9                   and inserting the following:

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

10                   and

11                   (B) by striking the item relating to section  
12                   305A and inserting the following:

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