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)

115TH CONGRESS
2D Session

H. R. 2409

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

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

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,
SECTION 1. TERMINATION OF MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING AND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE CONTRACTS.

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

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “, MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING, AND INTERNET ACCESS” after “TELEPHONE”;

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

“(4) ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS COVERED.—For purposes of this section, the following individuals shall be treated as a servicemember covered by paragraph (1):

“(A) A spouse of a servicemember who dies while in military service or a spouse of a member of the reserve components who dies while performing duty described in subparagraph (B).

“(B) A member of the reserve components performing military service or performing full-time National Guard duty, active Guard and Reserve duty, or inactive-duty training (as such terms are defined in section 101(d) of title 10, United States Code).”;}
(3) in subsection (b), by striking “cellular telephone service or telephone exchange service” and inserting “commercial mobile service, telephone exchange service, Internet access service, or multichannel video programming service”;

(4) in subsection (c), by inserting “for commercial mobile service or telephone exchange service” before “terminated”;

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

(6) in subsection (e)—

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

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For any”;

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

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

and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) RETURN OF PROVIDER-OWNED EQUIPMENT.—If a servicemember terminates a contract under subsection (a), the servicemember shall return any provider-owned consumer premises equipment to
the service provider not later than 10 days after the
date on which service is disconnected.”; and

(7) in subsection (g)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as

paragraph (4); and

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

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

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

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

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

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act is amended—

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

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

and

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

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