

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 308

BY REPRESENTATIVE ADAMS

TELEVISION/CABLE: Prohibits discontinuation of cable service without prior notice

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 45:1364(E) and 1365(B)(1), relative to notice for discontinuation
3 of cable and video services; to provide for termination of certificates with the
4 secretary of state; to require the issuance of notice; and to provide for related
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 45:1364(E) and 1365(B)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
8 as follows:

9 §1364. Certificate issued by the state; eligibility

10 * * *

11 E.(1) The certificate issued pursuant to this Chapter may be terminated by
12 the cable service provider or video service provider by submitting written notice of
13 the termination to the secretary of state.

14 (2) A cable service provider or video service provider shall notify its
15 customers of the end of service at least thirty days before termination of the
16 certificate is effective. The cable service provider or video service provider shall
17 notify its customers of the end of service in writing and through announcements on
18 the cable system.

19 * * *

1 §1365. State franchise; effect on existing local franchise agreement

2 * * *

3 B. Any incumbent service provider shall have the option to terminate an
4 existing franchise previously issued by a local governmental subdivision and may
5 instead offer cable service or video service in such local governmental subdivision
6 under a certificate of state franchise issued by the secretary of state in accordance
7 with the provisions of R.S. 45:1364, provided the following requirements are
8 satisfied by any such incumbent service provider:

9 (1)(a) An incumbent service provider exercising its termination option shall
10 file a statement of termination with the secretary of state in the form of an affidavit
11 containing the information required by R.S. 45:1364(B) and submit copies of such
12 filing with any affected local governmental subdivision. Termination of existing
13 franchises is effective immediately upon the effective date of the certificate of state
14 franchise issued by the secretary of state.

15 (b) If there may be a disruption of service, a cable service provider or video
16 service provider shall notify its customers at least thirty days before termination of
17 the certificate is effective. The cable service provider or video service provider shall
18 notify its customers of a possible disruption in writing and through announcements
19 on the cable system.

20 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 308 Original

2024 Regular Session

Adams

Abstract: Prohibits the discontinuation of cable service without prior notice.

Present law provides that the secretary of state shall issue a certificate authorizing an applicant to offer cable service or video service.

Present law provides that the certificate issued pursuant to present law may be terminated by the cable service provider or video service provider by submitting written notice of the termination to the secretary of state.

Proposed law adds that a cable service provider or video service provider shall notify its customers of the end of service at least 30 days before termination of the certificate is effective. The service provider shall notify its customers of the end of service in writing and through announcements on the cable system.

Present law states that any incumbent service provider shall have the option to terminate an existing franchise previously issued by a local governmental subdivision and may instead offer cable service or video service in such local governmental subdivision under a certificate of state franchise issued by the secretary of state in accordance with the provisions of present law and proposed law, provided that all requirements are satisfied by any such incumbent service provider.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that an incumbent service provider exercising its termination option shall file a statement of termination with the secretary of state in the form of an affidavit containing the information required by present law and submit copies of such filing with any affected local governmental subdivision. Termination of existing franchises is effective immediately upon the effective date of the certificate of state franchise issued by the secretary of state.

Proposed law adds that if there may be a disruption of service, a cable service provider or video service provider shall notify its customers at least 30 days before termination of the certificate is effective. The service provider shall notify its customers of a possible disruption in writing and through announcements on the cable system.

(Amends R.S. 45:1364(E) and 1365(B)(1))