

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Hamzy Urges Residents to Prepare Now for Switch from Analog to Digital TV Broadcasting



Residents who Receive TV Broadcasts via Antennas and Own Older TV Sets are Most Affected by Change

Bristol and Plymouth residents who receive television broadcasts through external antennas and own older television sets should prepare now for the federally-mandated changeover from analog to digital television broadcasting, state Representative William A. Hamzy said today.

“While the transition from analog over-the air television to digital broadcasting will enable viewers to experience a higher quality picture, it also means residents who receive TV broadcasts through external antennas and own older television sets will have to upgrade their television sets. To view digital signals, consumers who use antennas to watch TV and have older TV sets must upgrade by using either a converter box, purchasing new units with digital tuners, or subscribing to cable or direct-broadcast satellite services. People who do not upgrade will find that their TVs no longer work,” said Representative Hamzy, R-78th District.

Under the federal Digital Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005, all full-power television stations in the United States must begin broadcasting exclusively in digital instead of analog on February 17, 2009. That means consumers must make sure their TV sets are capable of receiving digital signals, Representative Hamzy said.

Consumers who rely on antennas and older TV sets should take advantage of the federal converter box coupon program to help reduce the cost of their upgrades. Every household in the United States can request up to two coupons worth \$40 each toward the purchase of basic converter boxes at local consumer electronics retail stores. Consumers can apply for coupons at www.dtv2009.gov or by calling 1-888-DTV-2009, Representative Hamzy said.

“Now is the best time for residents who own older TV sets with antennas to order converter coupons. Supplies are limited and mail delivery takes time. Ordering coupons early will give people plenty of time to buy converter boxes and make sure they are functioning properly. Citizens should also take the time to find out if family, friends and neighbors who use older TV sets with antennas have ordered coupons or pay-TV services to prepare for the DTV transition,” Representative Hamzy said.

Representative Hamzy is the public sector chair of the American Legislative Exchange Council’s Telecommunications and Information Technology Task Force, which seeks to

develop state public policy that will preserve free-market principles, promote competitive federalism, uphold deregulation efforts, and keep the communications and technology industries free from new burdensome regulations.

The American Legislative Exchange Council works to advance the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism, and individual liberty, through a nonpartisan public-private partnership of America's state legislators, members of the private sector, the federal government, and the general public.

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