

Proposed Legislation

Federal	What it would do:	Current status:
<p>House Bill 6068</p> <p><i>Saving Local News Act</i> 2021-2022 *Six co-sponsors, none from Washington https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/6068/text</p>	<p>This bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include publication of written news articles as a tax-exempt purpose for organizations, and for other purposes.</p>	<p>Introduced in the House on Nov. 23, 2021 and referred to the House Ways and Means Committee</p>
<p>Senate Bill 673</p> <p><i>Journalism Competition and Preservation Act of 2021</i> 2021-2022 *Seven co-sponsors (bipartisan) No sponsors from Washington https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/673</p>	<p>This bill creates a four-year safe harbor from antitrust laws for print, broadcast, or digital news companies to collectively negotiate with online content distributors (e.g., social media companies) regarding the terms on which the news companies' content may be distributed by online content distributors.</p>	<p>Discussed at the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Competition Policy, antitrust, and Consumer Rights Feb. 2, 2022</p>
<p>House Bill 1735</p> <p><i>Journalism Competition and Preservation Act of 2021</i> *63 co-sponsors (bipartisan), including Rep. Jayapal from Washington https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1735?s=1&r=2</p>	<p>This bill creates a four-year safe harbor from antitrust laws for print, broadcast, or digital news companies to collectively negotiate with online content distributors (e.g., social media companies) regarding terms under which the news companies' content may be distributed by online content distributors.</p>	<p>Referred to the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law. Action by: Committee on the Judiciary May 18, 2021</p>
<p>House Bill 3940</p> <p><i>Local Journalism Sustainability Act</i> 2021-2022 *72 co-sponsors (bipartisan) Introduced by Rep. Newhouse (R-WA) From Washington state Reps. Larson, DelBene, Herrera Beutler, Jayapal, Kilmer, Adam Smith, Strickland, and Schrier https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3940/</p>	<p>This bill allows individual taxpayers a tax credit up to \$250 in any taxable year for subscriptions to one or more local newspapers. It also allows a local news employer a payroll credit for wages paid to local news journalists.</p> <p>The bill allows certain small businesses a tax credit for advertising in a local newspaper or through a broadcast of a radio or television station serving a local community.</p>	<p>Referred to the House Ways and Means committee Jun. 16, 2021 [Part of the Build Back Better bill]</p>
<p>Senate Bill 2434</p> <p>Local Journalism Sustainability Act 2021-2022 *17 co-sponsors Introduced by Sen. Cantwell (D-WA) from Washington state: Sen. Murray https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2434</p>	<p>This bill allows individual taxpayers a tax credit up to \$250 in any taxable year for subscriptions to one or more local newspapers. It also allows a local news employer a payroll credit for wages paid to local news journalists.</p> <p>The bill allows certain small businesses a tax credit for advertising in a local newspaper or through a broadcast of a radio or television station serving a local community.</p>	<p>Referred to the Committee on Finance Jul. 22, 2021</p>
<p>House Bill 3169</p> <p>Future of Local News Act 2021-2022 *Five co-sponsors (bipartisan) No co-sponsors from Washington state https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3169</p>	<p>This bill establishes the Future of Local News Committee to examine, report on, and make recommendations related to the state of local news and the ability of local news to meet the information needs of the people of the United States.</p>	<p>Sent to House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology and House Small Business Committee May 12, 2021</p>
<p>Senate Bill 1601</p> <p>Future of Local News Act 2021-2022 *Two co-sponsors No co-sponsors from Washington state https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1601</p>	<p>This bill establishes the Future of Local News Committee to examine, report on, and make recommendations related to the state of local news and the ability of local news to meet the information needs of the people of the United States.</p>	<p>Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation</p>
<p>Senate Bill 2457</p> <p>PRESS Act Protect Reporters from Excessive State Suppression Act *One sponsor – Sen. Wyden (D-OR) https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2457/text</p>	<p>A bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by establishing appropriate limits on the federally compelled disclosure of information obtained as part of engaging in journalism, and for other purposes.</p>	<p>Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary Jul. 22, 2021</p>
<p>House Resolution 821</p> <p>Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of local print and digital journalism to the continued welfare, transparency, and prosperity of government at every level and the continuation and freedom of the United States as it is known today. 2021-2022 *Three co-sponsors No co-sponsors from Washington https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-resolution/821/text</p>	<p><i>Resolved</i>, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that— (1) <i>It is in the best interests of federal, state, and local governments to make all possible efforts to ensure the continuation of robust local digital and print news sources; and</i> (2) <i>Congress should work with news outlets and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that local digital and print news continues to operate in a robust manner for years to come.</i></p>	<p>Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform Nov. 23, 2021</p>

Washington State	What it would do:	Current status:
<p>Senate Bill 5541</p> <p>2022 Sponsored by: Sens. Mullet, Gildon, Keiser, Lilas, and Lovick https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/Senate/5541%20SBR%20BFST%20TA%2022.pdf</p>	<p>This bill would have exempted newspapers in Washington from paying the Business and Occupation tax.</p>	<p>Discussed in Senate Committee on Business, Financial Services & Trade Jan. 20, 2021 Failed to get out of committee</p>