

APRIL 2026

The issue:

Last Congress, the Senate passed a bill to make daylight saving time (DST) permanent. An increasing number of states are considering legislation to establish permanent DST as well, which would require federal government approval.

- **Broadcasters oppose state-specific time changes that would undermine our ability to deliver news, weather, and entertainment programming** at our audience's desired time, and even the ability of some radio stations, especially on the AM dial, to broadcast at all.

Here's why:

DST has existed on and off for the last 100 years in the United States. In the early part of the 20th century, when the country was not at war, states individually chose whether and when to change time standards.

- This patchwork approach caused problems, leading Congress to pass the Uniform Time Act of 1966. This law imposed uniform time observance across the country, including setting annual beginning and end dates for daylight saving time. While the stop and start dates have changed over time, the United States now observes eight months of DST, and only four months of standard time (November-March).
- In recent years, moves to eliminate the biannual changing of the clocks have increased. Proposals that would keep an individual state on DST year-round require Congress to amend the Uniform Time Act in order to implement them, but Congress could implement permanent nationwide DST through a statutory change as well.

Broadcasters oppose state-by-state time shifts, because **adopting different time standards on an individual basis would put each state out of sync with its neighbors, making program scheduling as chaotic as the patchwork time zone map.**

- This is especially problematic in television and radio markets that stretch across state lines. Some broadcasters may be forced to air shows on tape delay, and setting start times for live events such as sports and awards shows would become especially difficult.
- Drive-time radio in markets that cross state lines would suddenly reach only half the intended audience at once. Further, station programming may comply with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules for the time a program is permitted to air in one state but violate the rules in another.



A Patchwork Approach to State Time Standards Harms Local Audiences

- **Nationwide permanent DST also poses problems for broadcasters.** For television, international event scheduling, especially involving major sporting events, could be impacted if implementation of a time change was not sufficiently delayed. AM radio would also be impacted, by delaying the time many AM broadcasters could come on the air in the morning, thus depriving their local listeners of critical news and information during morning drive time.

The bottom line:

Individual state time changes would wreak havoc on many industries, including local television and radio broadcasters.

- **Congress should uphold the reasoning behind the Uniform Time Act and ensure that states in the same time zones remain aligned.**
- Furthermore, Congress should **ensure that no harm comes to broadcasters** or their audiences through a nationwide implementation of permanent DST.