

FCC delays decision on much-disputed rules on cable boxes

September 29 2016, by Tali Arbel

Federal regulators have delayed a decision on requiring cable and satellite TV companies to make free apps to bypass the need for cable boxes.

The plan has drawn criticism from the TV industry, Hollywood studios and lawmakers. The Federal Communications Commission canceled a vote Thursday; Chairman Tom Wheeler and the two other Democratic commissioners say they are still working on the plan.

The FCC had wanted to force TV providers to make free apps for popular streaming gadgets so a cable box wouldn't be needed. That could save consumers money.

But industry groups complained that the FCC would have power to oversee [licensing agreements](#) with tech companies that would make such gadgets.

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