

Union Calendar No. 650

115TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3994

[Report No. 115–841]

To establish the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2017

Mr. TONKO (for himself and Mr. LANCE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

JULY 18, 2018

Additional sponsors: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. MENG, Mr. RUSH, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. GRIFFITH

JULY 18, 2018

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on October 6, 2017]

A BILL

To establish the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth,
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Critical*
5 *Connectivity Expands Service, Small Business Resources,*
6 *Opportunities, Access, and Data Based on Assessed Need*
7 *and Demand Act” or the “ACCESS BROADBAND Act”.*

8 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF INTERNET**
9 **CONNECTIVITY AND GROWTH.**

10 *Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment*
11 *of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall establish the Office*
12 *of Internet Connectivity and Growth within the National*
13 *Telecommunications and Information Administration.*

14 **SEC. 3. DUTIES.**

15 *(a) OUTREACH.—The Office shall—*

16 *(1) connect with communities that need access to*
17 *high-speed internet and improved digital inclusion ef-*
18 *forts through various forms of outreach and commu-*
19 *nication techniques;*

20 *(2) hold regional workshops across the country to*
21 *share best practices and effective strategies for pro-*
22 *moting broadband access and adoption;*

23 *(3) develop targeted broadband training and*
24 *presentations for various demographic communities*
25 *through various media; and*

1 (4) *develop and distribute publications (includ-*
2 *ing toolkits, primers, manuals, and white papers)*
3 *providing guidance, strategies, and insights to com-*
4 *munities as the communities develop strategies to ex-*
5 *pend broadband access and adoption.*

6 **(b) TRACKING OF FEDERAL DOLLARS.—**

7 (1) **BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE.—***The Office*
8 *shall track the construction and use of and access to*
9 *any broadband infrastructure built using any Federal*
10 *support in a central database.*

11 (2) **ACCOUNTING MECHANISM.—***The Office shall*
12 *develop a streamlined accounting mechanism by*
13 *which any agency offering a Federal broadband sup-*
14 *port program and the Commission through the Uni-*
15 *versal Service Fund shall provide the information de-*
16 *scribed in paragraph (1) in a standardized and effi-*
17 *cient fashion.*

18 (3) **REPORT.—***Not later than 1 year after the*
19 *date of the enactment of this Act, and every year*
20 *thereafter, the Office shall make public on the website*
21 *of the Office and submit to the Committee on Energy*
22 *and Commerce of the House of Representatives and*
23 *the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-*
24 *tation of the Senate a report on the following:*

1 (A) *A description of the work of the Office*
2 *for the previous year and the number of residents*
3 *of the United States that received broadband as*
4 *result of Federal broadband support programs*
5 *and the Universal Service Fund program.*

6 (B) *A description of how many residents of*
7 *the United States were provided broadband by*
8 *which universal service mechanism or which*
9 *Federal broadband support program.*

10 (C) *An estimate of the economic impact of*
11 *such broadband deployment efforts on the local*
12 *economy, including any effect on small busi-*
13 *nesses or jobs.*

14 **SEC. 4. STREAMLINED APPLICATIONS FOR SUPPORT.**

15 (a) *AGENCY CONSULTATION.*—*The Office shall consult*
16 *with any agency offering a Federal broadband support pro-*
17 *gram to streamline and standardize the applications proc-*
18 *ess for financial assistance or grants for such program.*

19 (b) *AGENCY STREAMLINING.*—*Any agency offering a*
20 *Federal broadband support program shall amend their ap-*
21 *plications for broadband support, to the extent practicable*
22 *and as necessary, to streamline and standardize applica-*
23 *tions for Federal broadband support programs across the*
24 *Government.*

1 (c) *SINGLE APPLICATION.*—*To the greatest extent*
2 *practicable, the Office shall seek to create one application*
3 *that may be submitted to apply for all, or substantially all,*
4 *Federal broadband support programs.*

5 (d) *WEBSITE REQUIRED.*—*Not later than 180 days*
6 *after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Office shall*
7 *create a central website through which potential applicants*
8 *can learn about and apply for support through any Federal*
9 *broadband support program.*

10 **SEC. 5. COORDINATION OF SUPPORT.**

11 *The Office, any agency that offers a Federal broadband*
12 *support program, and the Commission through the Uni-*
13 *versal Service Fund shall coordinate with the Office to en-*
14 *sure that support is being distributed in an efficient, tech-*
15 *nology-neutral, and financially sustainable manner, with*
16 *the goal of serving the largest number of persons in the*
17 *United States while avoiding overbuilding and promoting*
18 *the most job and economic growth for all residents of the*
19 *United States.*

20 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

21 *In this Act:*

22 (1) *AGENCY.*—*The term “agency” has the mean-*
23 *ing given that term in section 551 of title 5, United*
24 *States Code.*

1 (2) *ASSISTANT SECRETARY.*—*The term “Assistant*
2 *Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of Com-*
3 *merce for Communications and Information.*

4 (3) *COMMISSION.*—*The term “Commission”*
5 *means the Federal Communications Commission.*

6 (4) *FEDERAL BROADBAND SUPPORT PROGRAM.*—
7 *The term “Federal broadband support program” does*
8 *not include any Universal Service Fund program and*
9 *means any of the following programs (or any other*
10 *similar Federal program) to the extent the program*
11 *offers broadband internet service or programs for pro-*
12 *moting broadband access and adoption for various de-*
13 *mographic communities through various media for*
14 *residential, commercial, community providers, or aca-*
15 *demie establishments:*

16 (A) *The Telecommunications and Tech-*
17 *nology Program of the Appalachian Regional*
18 *Commission.*

19 (B) *The Telecommunications Infrastructure*
20 *Loans and Loan Guarantees, the Rural*
21 *Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees,*
22 *the Substantially Underserved Trust Areas Pro-*
23 *visions, the Community Connect Grant Program,*
24 *and the Distance Learning and Telemedicine*

1 *Grant Program of the Rural Utilities Service of*
2 *the Department of Agriculture.*

3 *(C) The Public Works and Economic Ad-*
4 *justment Assistance Programs and the Planning*
5 *and Local Technical Assistance Programs of the*
6 *Economic Development Administration of the*
7 *Department of Commerce.*

8 *(D) The Community Development Block*
9 *Grants and Section 108 Loan Guarantees, the*
10 *Funds for Public Housing Authorities: Capital*
11 *Fund and Operating Fund, the Multifamily*
12 *Housing, the Indian Community Development*
13 *Block Grant Program, the Indian Housing Block*
14 *Grant Program, the Title VI Loan Guarantee*
15 *Program, Choice Neighborhoods, the HOME In-*
16 *vestment Partnerships Program, the Housing*
17 *Trust Fund, and the Housing Opportunities for*
18 *Persons with AIDS of the Department of Hous-*
19 *ing and Urban Development.*

20 *(E) The American Job Centers of the Em-*
21 *ployment and Training Administration of the*
22 *Department of Labor.*

23 *(F) The Library Services and Technology*
24 *Grant Programs of the Institute of Museum and*
25 *Library Services.*

1 (5) *OFFICE*.—*The term “Office” means the Office*
2 *of Internet Connectivity and Growth established pur-*
3 *suant to section 2.*

4 (6) *UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND PROGRAM*.—*The*
5 *term “Universal Service Fund program” means any*
6 *program authorized under section 254 of the Commu-*
7 *nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) to help deploy*
8 *broadband.*

9 (7) *UNIVERSAL SERVICE MECHANISM*.—*The term*
10 *“universal service mechanism” means any funding*
11 *stream provided by a Universal Service Fund pro-*
12 *gram to support broadband access.*

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