

### 116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1328

## **AN ACT**

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,

### 1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2	This Act may be cited as the "Advancing Critical
3	Connectivity Expands Service, Small Business Resources,
4	Opportunities, Access, and Data Based on Assessed Need
5	and Demand Act" or the "ACCESS BROADBAND Act".
6	SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF INTERNET
7	CONNECTIVITY AND GROWTH.
8	Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
9	ment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall establish
10	the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth within the
11	National Telecommunications and Information Adminis-
12	tration.
13	SEC. 3. DUTIES.
14	(a) Outreach.—The Office shall—
15	(1) connect with communities that need access
16	to high-speed internet and improved digital inclusion
17	efforts through various forms of outreach and com-
18	munication techniques;
19	(2) hold regional workshops across the country
20	to share best practices and effective strategies for
21	promoting broadband access and adoption;
22	(3) develop targeted broadband training and
23	presentations for various demographic communities
24	through various media; and
25	(4) develop and distribute publications (includ-
26	ing toolkits, primers, manuals, and white papers)

providing guidance, strategies, and insights to communities as the communities develop strategies to expand broadband access and adoption.

### (b) Tracking of Federal Dollars.—

- (1) Broadband infrastructure.—The Office shall track the construction and use of and access to any broadband infrastructure built using any Federal support in a central database.
- (2) ACCOUNTING MECHANISM.—The Office shall develop a streamlined accounting mechanism by which any agency offering a Federal broadband support program and the Commission through the Universal Service Fund shall provide the information described in paragraph (1) in a standardized and efficient fashion.
- (3) Report.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter, the Office shall make public on the website of the Office and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the following:
- (A) A description of the work of the Office for the previous year and the number of resi-

- dents of the United States that received broadband as result of Federal broadband support programs and the Universal Service Fund program.
  - (B) A description of how many residents of the United States were provided broadband by which universal service mechanism or which Federal broadband support program.
    - (C) An estimate of the economic impact of such broadband deployment efforts on the local economy, including any effect on small businesses or jobs.

### 13 SEC. 4. STREAMLINED APPLICATIONS FOR SUPPORT.

- 14 (a) AGENCY CONSULTATION.—The Office shall con-15 sult with any agency offering a Federal broadband support 16 program to streamline and standardize the applications 17 process for financial assistance or grants for such pro-18 gram.
- 19 (b) AGENCY STREAMLINING.—Any agency offering a
  20 Federal broadband support program shall amend their ap21 plications for broadband support, to the extent practicable
  22 and as necessary, to streamline and standardize applica23 tions for Federal broadband support programs across the
  24 Government.

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- 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
- 4 all, 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 Fed-
- 9 eral broadband support program.

### 10 SEC. 5. COORDINATION OF SUPPORT.

- 11 The Office, any agency that offers a Federal broad-
- 12 band support program, and the Commission through the
- 13 Universal Service Fund shall coordinate with the Office
- 14 to ensure that support is being distributed in an efficient,
- 15 technology-neutral, and financially sustainable manner,
- 16 with the goal of serving the largest number of persons in
- 17 the United States while avoiding overbuilding and pro-
- 18 moting the most job and economic growth for all residents
- 19 of the United States.

### 20 SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

- 21 In this Act:
- 22 (1) AGENCY.—The term "agency" has the
- meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5,
- 24 United States Code.

- 1 (2) Assistant Secretary.—The term "Assist-2 ant Secretary" means the Assistant Secretary of 3 Commerce for Communications and Information.
  - (3) Commission.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Communications Commission.
  - (4) Federal broadband support pro-GRAM.—The term "Federal broadband support program" does not include any Universal Service Fund program and means any of the following programs (or any other similar Federal program) to the extent the program offers broadband internet service or programs for promoting broadband access and adoption for various demographic communities through various media for residential, commercial, community providers, or academic establishments:
    - (A) The Telecommunications and Technology Program of the Appalachian Regional Commission.
    - (B) The Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees, the Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees, the Substantially Underserved Trust Areas Provisions, the Community Connect Grant Program, and the Distance Learning and Tele-

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- medicine Grant Program of the Rural Utilities
   Service of the Department of Agriculture.
  - (C) The Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs and the Planning and Local Technical Assistance Programs of the Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce.
  - (D) The Community Development Block Grants and Section 108 Loan Guarantees, the Funds for Public Housing Authorities: Capital Fund and Operating Fund, the Multifamily Housing, the Indian Community Development Block Grant Program, the Indian Housing Block Grant Program, the Title VI Loan Guarantee Program, Choice Neighborhoods, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the Housing Trust Fund, and the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
  - (E) The American Job Centers of the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor.
  - (F) The Library Services and Technology Grant Programs of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

- 1 (5) Office.—The term "Office" means the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth established pursuant 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 Com7 munications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) to help de8 ploy broadband.
- 9 (7) UNIVERSAL SERVICE MECHANISM.—The 10 term "universal service mechanism" means any 11 funding stream provided by a Universal Service 12 Fund program to support broadband access.

### 13 SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act is intended to alter or amend any 15 provision of section 254 of the Communications Act of 16 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254).

### 17 SEC. 8. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-

- 1 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
- 2 vote on passage.

Passed the House of Representatives May 8, 2019. Attest:

Clerk.

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