

115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 686

To ensure appropriate spectrum planning and interagency coordination to support the Internet of Things.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 24, 2017

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

A BILL

To ensure appropriate spectrum planning and interagency coordination to support the Internet of Things.

- 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 "Developing Innovation
- 5 and Growing the Internet of Things Act" or "DIGIT
- 6 Act".
- 7 SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.
- 8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—
- 9 (1) the Internet of Things refers to the growing
- 10 number of connected and interconnected devices;

- 1 (2) estimates indicate that more than 2 50,000,000,000 devices will be connected to the 3 Internet by the year 2020;
 - (3) the Internet of Things has the potential to generate trillions of dollars in new economic activity around the world;
 - (4) businesses across the United States can develop new services and products, improve operations, simplify logistics, cut costs, and pass savings on to consumers by utilizing the Internet of Things and related innovations;
 - (5) the United States leads the world in the development of technologies that support the Internet and the United States technology sector is well-positioned to lead in the development of technologies for the Internet of Things;
 - (6) the United States Government can implement this technology to better deliver services to the public; and
 - (7) the United States Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 110, 114th Congress, agreed to March 24, 2015, calling for a national strategy for the development of the Internet of Things.

1	(b) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Con-
2	gress that policies governing the Internet of Things should
3	maximize the potential and development of the Internet
4	of Things to benefit all stakeholders, including businesses
5	governments, and consumers.
6	SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.
7	In this Act:
8	(1) Appropriate committees of con-
9	GRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Con-
10	gress'' means—
11	(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science
12	and Transportation of the Senate; and
13	(B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
14	merce of the House of Representatives.
15	(2) Commission.—The term "Commission"
16	means the Federal Communications Commission.
17	(3) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means
18	the Secretary of Commerce.
19	(4) Steering committee.—The term "steer-
20	ing committee" means the steering committee estab-
21	lished under section $4(e)(1)$.
22	(5) Working Group.—The term "working
23	group" means the working group convened under
24	section 4(a).

1 SEC. 4. FEDERAL WORKING GROUP.

2	(a) In General.—The Secretary shall convene a
3	working group of Federal stakeholders for the purpose of
4	providing recommendations and a report to Congress re-
5	lated to the aspects of the Internet of Things described
6	in subsection (b).
7	(b) Duties.—The working group shall—
8	(1) identify any Federal regulations, statutes,
9	grant practices, budgetary or jurisdictional chal-
10	lenges, and other sector-specific policies that are in-
11	hibiting or could inhibit the development of the
12	Internet of Things;
13	(2) consider policies or programs that encour-
14	age and improve coordination among Federal agen-
15	cies with jurisdiction over the Internet of Things;
16	(3) consider any findings or recommendations
17	made by the steering committee and, where appro-
18	priate, act to implement those recommendations; and
19	(4) examine—
20	(A) how Federal agencies can benefit from
21	utilizing the Internet of Things;
22	(B) the use of Internet of Things tech-
23	nology by Federal agencies as of the date the
24	working group performs the examination;

1	(C) the preparedness and ability of Federal
2	agencies to adopt Internet of Things technology
3	in the future; and
4	(D) any additional security measures that
5	Federal agencies may need to take to—
6	(i) safely and securely use the Inter-
7	net of Things; and
8	(ii) enhance the resiliency of Federal
9	systems against cyber threats to the Inter-
10	net of Things.
11	(c) AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES.—In convening the
12	working group under subsection (a), the Secretary shall
13	have discretion to appoint representatives and shall spe-
14	cifically consider seeking representation from—
15	(1) the Department of Commerce, including—
16	(A) the National Telecommunications and
17	Information Administration;
18	(B) the National Institute of Standards
19	and Technology; and
20	(C) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
21	Administration;
22	(2) the Department of Transportation;
23	(3) the Department of Homeland Security;
24	(4) the Office of Management and Budget;
25	(5) the National Science Foundation;

1	(6) the Commission;
2	(7) the Federal Trade Commission;
3	(8) the Office of Science and Technology Policy;
4	and
5	(9) the Department of Energy.
6	(d) Nongovernmental Stakeholders.—The
7	working group shall consult with nongovernmental stake-
8	holders, including—
9	(1) the steering committee;
10	(2) information and communications technology
11	manufacturers, suppliers, service providers, and ven-
12	dors;
13	(3) subject matter experts representing indus-
14	trial sectors other than the technology sector that
15	can benefit from the Internet of Things, including
16	the agriculture and health care sectors;
17	(4) small, medium, and large businesses;
18	(5) think tanks and academia;
19	(6) nonprofits and consumer groups;
20	(7) rural stakeholders; and
21	(8) other stakeholders with relevant expertise,
22	as determined by the Secretary.
23	(e) Steering Committee.—

1	(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established
2	within the Department of Commerce a steering com-
3	mittee to advise the working group.
4	(2) Duties.—The steering committee shall ad-
5	vise the working group with regard to—
6	(A) the identification of any Federal regu-
7	lations, statutes, grant practices, programs,
8	budgetary or jurisdictional challenges, and
9	other sector-specific policies that are inhibiting
10	or could inhibit the development of the Internet
11	of Things;
12	(B) whether adequate spectrum is available
13	to support the growing Internet of Things and
14	what legal or regulatory barriers may exist to
15	providing any spectrum needed in the future;
16	(C) policies or programs that—
17	(i) promote or are related to the pri-
18	vacy of individuals who use or are affected
19	by the Internet of Things;
20	(ii) may enhance the security of the
21	Internet of Things;
22	(iii) may protect users of the Internet
23	of Things; and

1	(iv) may encourage coordination
2	among Federal agencies with jurisdiction
3	over the Internet of Things;
4	(D) the opportunities and challenges asso-
5	ciated with the use of Internet of Things tech-
6	nology by small businesses; and
7	(E) any international proceeding, inter-
8	national negotiation, or other international mat-
9	ter affecting the Internet of Things to which
10	the United States is or should be a party.
11	(3) Membership.—The Secretary shall appoint
12	to the steering committee members representing a
13	wide range of stakeholders outside of the Federal
14	Government with expertise relating to the Internet
15	of Things, including—
16	(A) information and communications tech-
17	nology manufacturers, suppliers, service pro-
18	viders, and vendors;
19	(B) subject matter experts representing in-
20	dustrial sectors other than the technology sector
21	that can benefit from the Internet of Things,
22	including the agriculture and health care sec-
23	tors;
24	(C) small, medium, and large businesses;
25	(D) think tanks and academia;

1	(E) nonprofit organizations and consumer
2	groups;
3	(F) rural stakeholders; and
4	(G) other stakeholders with relevant exper-
5	tise, as determined by the Secretary.
6	(4) Report.—Not later than 1 year after the
7	date of enactment of this Act, the steering com-
8	mittee shall submit to the working group a report
9	that includes any findings or recommendations of
10	the steering committee.
11	(5) Independent advice.—
12	(A) IN GENERAL.—The steering committee
13	shall set the agenda of the steering committee
14	in carrying out the duties of the steering com-
15	mittee under paragraph (2).
16	(B) Suggestions.—The working group
17	may suggest topics or items for the steering
18	committee to study, and the steering committee
19	shall take such suggestions into consideration in
20	carrying out the duties of the steering com-
21	mittee.
22	(C) Report.—The steering committee
23	shall ensure that the report submitted under
24	paragraph (4) is the result of the independent
25	judgment of the steering committee.

1	(6) Termination.—The steering committee
2	shall terminate on the date on which the working
3	group submits the report under subsection (f) un-
4	less, on or before that date, the Secretary files a new
5	charter for the steering committee under section 9(c)
6	of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.
7	App.).
8	(f) Report to Congress.—
9	(1) In general.—Not later than 18 months
10	after the date of enactment of this Act, the working
11	group shall submit to the appropriate committees of
12	Congress a report that includes—
13	(A) the findings and recommendations of
14	the working group with respect to the duties of
15	the working group under subsection (b);
16	(B) the report submitted by the steering
17	committee under subsection (e)(4), as the re-
18	port was received by the working group;
19	(C) recommendations for action or reasons
20	for inaction, as applicable, on each rec-
21	ommendation made by the steering committee
22	in the report submitted under subsection (e)(4);
23	and
24	(D) an accounting of any progress made
25	by Federal agencies to implement recommenda-

1	tions made by the working group or the steer-
2	ing committee.
3	(2) Copy of Report.—Any committee of Con-
4	gress, upon request, may obtain a copy of the report
5	submitted under paragraph (1).
6	SEC. 5. ASSESSING SPECTRUM NEEDS.
7	(a) In General.—The Commission, in consultation
8	with the National Telecommunications and Information
9	Administration, shall issue a notice of inquiry seeking pub-
10	lic comment on the current, as of the date of enactment
11	of this Act, and future spectrum needs of the Internet of
12	Things.
13	(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing the notice of inquiry
14	under subsection (a), the Commission shall seek comments
15	that consider and evaluate—
16	(1) whether adequate spectrum is available to
17	support the growing Internet of Things;
18	(2) what regulatory barriers may exist to pro-
19	viding any needed spectrum for the Internet of
20	Things; and
21	(3) what the role of licensed and unlicensed
22	spectrum is and will be in the growth of the Internet
23	of Things.
24	(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
25	of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to

- 1 the appropriate committees of Congress a report summa-
- 2 rizing the comments submitted in response to the notice

3 of inquiry issued under subsection (a).

 \bigcirc