

**Suspend the Rules And Pass the Bill, H.R. 3998, with Amendments**

**(The amendments strike all after the enacting clause and insert a new text and a new title)**

114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3998

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to commence proceedings related to the resiliency of critical telecommunications networks during times of emergency, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 16, 2015

Mr. PALLONE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to commence proceedings related to the resiliency of critical telecommunications networks during times of emergency, 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 “Securing Access to  
5 Networks in Disasters Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON NETWORK RESILIENCY.**

2 Not later than 36 months after the date of enactment  
3 of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress, and  
4 make publically available on the Commission's website, a  
5 study on the public safety benefits and technical feasibility  
6 and cost of—

7 (1) making telecommunications service pro-  
8 vider-owned WiFi access points, and other commu-  
9 nications technologies operating on unlicensed spec-  
10 trum, available to the general public for access to  
11 911 services, without requiring any login credentials,  
12 during times of emergency when mobile service is  
13 unavailable;

14 (2) the provision by non-telecommunications  
15 service provider-owned WiFi access points of public  
16 access to 911 services during times of emergency  
17 when mobile service is unavailable; and

18 (3) other alternative means of providing the  
19 public with access to 911 services during times of  
20 emergency when mobile service is unavailable.

21 **SEC. 3. ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS DUR-**  
22 **ING FEDERALLY DECLARED EMERGENCIES.**

23 Section 427(a)(1)(A) of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-  
24 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
25 5189e(a)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “telecommuni-  
26 cations service” and inserting “wireline or mobile tele-

1 phone service, Internet access service, radio or television  
2 broadcasting, cable service, or direct broadcast satellite  
3 service”.

4 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

5 As used in this Act—

6 (1) the term “Commission” means the Federal  
7 Communications Commission;

8 (2) the term “mobile service” means commer-  
9 cial mobile service (as defined in section 332 of the  
10 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332)) or  
11 commercial mobile data service (as defined in section  
12 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Cre-  
13 ation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401));

14 (3) the term “WiFi access point” means wire-  
15 less Internet access using the standard designated as  
16 802.11 or any variant thereof; and

17 (4) the term “times of emergency” means ei-  
18 ther an emergency as defined in section 102 of the  
19 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency  
20 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122), or an emergency  
21 as declared by the governor of a State or territory  
22 of the United States.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to direct the  
Federal Communications Commission to conduct a study  
on network resiliency during times of emergency, and for  
other purposes.”.