

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3998

[Report No. 114-]

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.

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

MAY --, 2016

Reported from the Committee on Energy and Commerce with amendments

[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 November 16, 2015]

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 Net-*
5 *works in Disasters Act”.*

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

7 *Not later than 36 months after the date of enactment*
8 *of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress, and*
9 *make publically available on the Commission’s website, a*
10 *study on—*

11 *(1) making telecommunications service provider-*
12 *owned WiFi access points, and other communications*
13 *technologies operating on unlicensed spectrum, avail-*
14 *able to the general public for access to 911 services,*
15 *without requiring any login credentials, during times*
16 *of emergency when mobile service is unavailable; and*

17 *(2) whether non-telecommunications service pro-*
18 *vider-owned WiFi access points can provide public*
19 *access to 911 services during times of emergency.*

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

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

1 *service, Internet access service, radio or television broad-*
2 *casting, cable service, or direct broadcast satellite service”.*

3 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

4 *As used in this Act and for purposes of the rules re-*
5 *quired by this Act—*

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

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

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

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