

Union Calendar No.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1717

[Report No. 119-]

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Mr. MENENDEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

MAY --, 2025

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union,
and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, 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 “Communications Secu-
5 rity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COUNCIL ON COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY, RELI-**
7 **ABILITY, AND INTEROPERABILITY.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission
10 shall—

11 (1) establish a council to advise the Commission
12 on issues including the security, reliability, and
13 interoperability of communications networks; or

14 (2) designate for purposes of this section an ad-
15 visory committee of the Commission that is oper-
16 ating on the date of the enactment of this Act under
17 a charter for the purpose of addressing the issues
18 described in paragraph (1) and, if the membership
19 of such committee does not comply with subsection
20 (b), modify such membership to comply with such
21 subsection.

22 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

23 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The members of the coun-
24 cil shall be appointed by the Chair.

1 (2) COMPOSITION.—To the extent practicable,
2 the membership of the council shall be composed of
3 the following:

4 (A) Representatives of companies in the
5 communications industry, except companies
6 that are determined by the Chair to be not
7 trusted.

8 (B) Representatives of public interest orga-
9 nizations or academic institutions, except public
10 interest organizations or academic institutions
11 that are determined by the Chair to be not
12 trusted.

13 (C) Representatives of the Federal Govern-
14 ment, State governments, local governments, or
15 Tribal Governments, with at least one member
16 representing each such type of government.

17 (3) KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.—Each
18 member of the council shall have knowledge and ex-
19 perience relevant to the purpose and goals of the
20 council.

21 (4) TERMS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the
23 council shall be appointed for a term of 2 years,
24 except as provided in subparagraph (B).

1 (B) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed
2 to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration
3 of the term for which the member's predecessor
4 was appointed shall be appointed only for the
5 remainder of that term. A member may serve
6 after the expiration of that member's term until
7 a successor has taken office.

8 (c) REPORTS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
10 the date on which the council is established or des-
11 ignated (as the case may be) under subsection (a),
12 and every 2 years thereafter, the council shall sub-
13 mit to the Chair each report adopted by the council
14 during the preceding 2-year period, and any report
15 adopted by any working group of the council during
16 such period, including any such report of the council
17 or a working group containing recommendations on
18 ways to increase the security, reliability, and inter-
19 operability of communications networks, and on
20 other relevant issues as appropriate.

21 (2) AVAILABILITY ON COMMISSION WEBSITE.—
22 The Commission shall make each report submitted
23 under paragraph (1) publicly available on the
24 website of the Commission.

1 (d) DURATION.—Section 1013(a)(2) of title 5,
2 United States Code (relating to the termination of advi-
3 sory committees) shall not apply to the council.

4 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) CHAIR.—The term “Chair” means the
6 Chair of the Commission.

7 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
8 means the Federal Communications Commission.

9 (3) COUNCIL.—The term “council” means the
10 council established under subsection (a)(1) or the
11 advisory committee designated under subsection
12 (a)(2), as the case may be.

13 (4) NOT TRUSTED.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “not trusted”
15 means, with respect to an entity, that—

16 (i) the Chair has made a public deter-
17 mination that such entity is owned by, con-
18 trolled by, or subject to the influence of a
19 foreign adversary; or

20 (ii) the Chair otherwise determines
21 that such entity poses a threat to the na-
22 tional security of the United States.

23 (B) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION.—In
24 making a determination under subparagraph
25 (A)(ii), the Chair shall use the criteria de-

1 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section
2 2(c) of the Secure and Trusted Communica-
3 tions Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C.
4 1601(c)), as appropriate.

5 (5) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
6 ing given such term in section 3 of the Communica-
7 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).