

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 2566  
OFFERED BY M. \_\_\_\_\_**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Improving Rural Call  
3 Quality and Reliability Act of 2016”.

4 **SEC. 2. ENSURING THE INTEGRITY OF VOICE COMMUNICA-**  
5 **TIONS.**

6       Part II of title II of the Communications Act of 1934  
7 (47 U.S.C. 251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
8 the following:

9 **“SEC. 262. ENSURING THE INTEGRITY OF VOICE COMMU-**  
10 **NICATIONS.**

11       “(a) **REGISTRATION AND COMPLIANCE BY INTER-**  
12 **MEDIATE PROVIDERS.**—An intermediate provider that of-  
13 fers or holds itself out as offering the capability to trans-  
14 mit covered voice communications from one destination to  
15 another and that charges any rate to any other entity (in-  
16 cluding an affiliated entity) for the transmission shall—

17               “(1) register with the Commission; and

1           “(2) comply with the service quality standards  
2           for such transmission to be established by the Com-  
3           mission under subsection (c)(1)(B).

4           “(b) REQUIRED USE OF REGISTERED INTER-  
5           MEDIATE PROVIDERS.—A covered provider may not use  
6           an intermediate provider to transmit covered voice com-  
7           munications unless such intermediate provider is reg-  
8           istered under subsection (a)(1).

9           “(c) COMMISSION RULES.—

10           “(1) IN GENERAL.—

11           “(A) REGISTRY.—Not later than 180 days  
12           after the date of enactment of this section, the  
13           Commission shall promulgate rules to establish  
14           a registry to record registrations under sub-  
15           section (a)(1).

16           “(B) SERVICE QUALITY STANDARDS.—Not  
17           later than 1 year after the date of enactment of  
18           this section, the Commission shall promulgate  
19           rules to establish service quality standards for  
20           the transmission of covered voice communica-  
21           tions by intermediate providers.

22           “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In promulgating the  
23           rules required by paragraph (1), the Commission  
24           shall—

1           “(A) ensure the integrity of the trans-  
2           mission of covered voice communications to all  
3           customers in the United States; and

4           “(B) prevent unjust or unreasonable dis-  
5           crimination among areas of the United States  
6           in the delivery of covered voice communications.

7           “(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REGISTRY.—The  
8           Commission shall make the registry established under sub-  
9           section (c)(1)(A) publicly available on the website of the  
10          Commission.

11          “(e) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.—The requirements of  
12          this section shall apply regardless of the format by which  
13          any communication or service is provided, the protocol or  
14          format by which the transmission of such communication  
15          or service is achieved, or the regulatory classification of  
16          such communication or service.

17          “(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
18          tion shall be construed to affect the regulatory classifica-  
19          tion of any communication or service.

20          “(g) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this sec-  
21          tion shall be construed to preempt or expand the authority  
22          of a State public utility commission or other relevant State  
23          agency to collect data, or investigate and enforce State  
24          law and regulations, regarding the completion of intra-  
25          state voice communications, regardless of the format by

1 which any communication or service is provided, the pro-  
2 tocol or format by which the transmission of such commu-  
3 nication or service is achieved, or the regulatory classifica-  
4 tion of such communication or service.

5 “(h) EXCEPTION.—The requirement under sub-  
6 section (a)(2) to comply with the service quality standards  
7 established under subsection (c)(1)(B) shall not apply to  
8 a covered provider that—

9 “(1) on or before the date that is 1 year after  
10 the date of enactment of this section, has certified  
11 as a Safe Harbor provider under section 64.2107(a)  
12 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any suc-  
13 cessor regulation; and

14 “(2) continues to meet the requirements under  
15 such section 64.2107(a).

16 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 “(1) COVERED PROVIDER.—The term ‘covered  
18 provider’ has the meaning given the term in section  
19 64.2101 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or  
20 any successor thereto.

21 “(2) COVERED VOICE COMMUNICATION.—The  
22 term ‘covered voice communication’ means a voice  
23 communication (including any related signaling in-  
24 formation) that is generated—

1           “(A) from the placement of a call from a  
2 connection using a North American Numbering  
3 Plan resource or a call placed to a connection  
4 using such a numbering resource; and

5           “(B) through any service provided by a  
6 covered provider.

7           “(3) INTERMEDIATE PROVIDER.—The term ‘in-  
8 termediate provider’ means any entity that—

9           “(A) enters into a business arrangement  
10 with a covered provider or other intermediate  
11 provider for the specific purpose of carrying,  
12 routing, or transmitting voice traffic that is  
13 generated from the placement of a call placed—

14           “(i) from an end user connection  
15 using a North American Numbering Plan  
16 resource; or

17           “(ii) to an end user connection using  
18 such a numbering resource; and

19           “(B) does not itself, either directly or in  
20 conjunction with an affiliate, serve as a covered  
21 provider in the context of originating or termi-  
22 nating a given call.”.

