

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4832

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that an eligible telecommunications carrier may use high cost universal service support to aid in the restoration of telecommunications capabilities in an area in which the President has declared a major disaster or emergency and may elect to receive an advance payment of such support.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 18, 2018

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

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that an eligible telecommunications carrier may use high cost universal service support to aid in the restoration of telecommunications capabilities in an area in which the President has declared a major disaster or emergency and may elect to receive an advance payment of such support.

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 “Restoring Economic
5 Strength and Telecommunications Operations by Releas-

1 ing Expected Dollars Act of 2018” or the “RESTORED
2 Act of 2018”.

3 **SEC. 2. USE OF HIGH COST UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT**
4 **FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIALLY DECLARED**
5 **MAJOR DISASTERS OR EMERGENCIES.**

6 Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
7 U.S.C. 254) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(m) USE OF HIGH COST UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUP-
10 PORT FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIALLY DECLARED MAJOR
11 DISASTERS OR EMERGENCIES.—

12 “(1) USE OF SUPPORT.—A covered tele-
13 communications carrier may use high cost support
14 received with respect to a covered area to aid in the
15 restoration of telecommunications capabilities in
16 such area if such carrier—

17 “(A) repairs its network as rapidly and
18 widely as possible to restore service; and

19 “(B) uses such support for such restora-
20 tion only in a covered area that is substantially
21 unserved by facilities-based providers of resi-
22 dential fixed voice and broadband service that
23 do not receive high cost support.

24 “(2) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a covered tele-
2 communications carrier makes an election de-
3 scribed in subparagraph (B) with respect to a
4 covered area, the Commission shall provide to
5 such carrier in the form of a single advance
6 payment the high cost support that, in the ab-
7 sence of such election, such carrier would have
8 received with respect to such area over the
9 number of months specified in such election.

10 “(B) ELECTION.—The election described
11 in this subparagraph is an election—

12 “(i) by a covered telecommunications
13 carrier to receive high cost support with
14 respect to a covered area for a number of
15 months specified in the election (not to ex-
16 ceed 7 months) in the form of a single ad-
17 vance payment; and

18 “(ii) that is made not later than 30
19 days after the President has declared a
20 major disaster or emergency under the
21 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
22 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
23 5121 et seq.) with respect to such area.

24 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—

1 “(A) COVERED AREA.—The term ‘covered
2 area’ means an area with respect to which the
3 President has declared a major disaster or
4 emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
5 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
6 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

7 “(B) COVERED TELECOMMUNICATIONS
8 CARRIER.—The term ‘covered telecommuni-
9 cations carrier’ means an eligible telecommuni-
10 cations carrier designated under section 214(e)
11 that receives high cost support with respect to
12 a covered area.

13 “(C) HIGH COST SUPPORT.—The term
14 ‘high cost support’ means universal service sup-
15 port for high cost areas under subpart D of
16 part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regula-
17 tions.”.

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