

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1289
OFFERED BY MS. Eshoo

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Preserving Home and
3 Office Numbers in Emergencies Act of 2020”.

4 **SEC. 2. MORATORIUM ON NUMBER REASSIGNMENT AFTER**
5 **DISASTER DECLARATION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(e) of the Commu-
7 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)) is amended by
8 adding at the end the following:

9 “(4) MORATORIUM ON NUMBER REASSIGNMENT
10 AFTER DISASTER DECLARATION.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a num-
12 ber assigned to a subscriber for the provision of
13 fixed voice service at a location in a designated
14 area during a covered period—

15 “(i) the number may not be reas-
16 signed, except at the request of the sub-
17 scriber; and

1 “(ii) the assignment of the number
2 may not be rescinded or otherwise modi-
3 fied, except at the request of the sub-
4 scriber.

5 “(B) EXTENSION ~~AT~~ REQUEST OF SUB-
6 SCRIBER.—During the covered period, at the
7 request of a subscriber described in subpara-
8 graph (A), the prohibition in subparagraph (A)
9 shall be extended for the number for 2 years
10 after the date on which the covered period ex-
11 pires.

12 “(C) SUBSCRIBER RIGHT TO CANCEL AND
13 RESUBSCRIBE.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a
15 number described under subparagraph (A)
16 or (B), if the subscriber assigned to such
17 number demonstrates to the provider of
18 the service (or, under subclause (II), any
19 other provider of fixed voice service that
20 serves the designated area) that such resi-
21 dence is inaccessible or uninhabitable—

22 “(I) the provider may not charge
23 the subscriber an early termination or
24 other fee in connection with the can-
25 cellation of such service, if cancelled

1 during the covered period or the ex-
2 tension of the period described in sub-
3 paragraph (B); and

4 “(II) if the subscriber cancels the
5 service during the covered period or
6 the extension of the period described
7 in subparagraph (B), the provider (or
8 any other provider of fixed voice serv-
9 ice that serves the designated area)—

10 “(aa) shall permit the sub-
11 scriber to subscribe or resub-
12 scribe, as the case may be, to
13 fixed voice service with the num-
14 ber at the residence or at a dif-
15 ferent residence (if such number
16 is available in the location of
17 such different residence); and

18 “(bb) may not charge the
19 subscriber a connection fee or
20 any other fee relating to the initi-
21 ation of fixed voice service.

22 “(ii) CANCELLATION WITHOUT DEM-
23 ONSTRATION OF INACCESSIBILITY OR
24 UNINHABITABILITY.—If a subscriber can-
25 cels the provision of service assigned to a

1 number described in subparagraph (A) or
2 (B) and does not demonstrate to the pro-
3 vider of such service that the residence
4 where the number is located is inaccessible
5 or uninhabitable as described under clause
6 (i), the number is no longer subject to the
7 prohibition under subparagraph (A) or
8 (B).

9 “(D) IDENTIFICATION ON COMMISSION
10 WEBSITE.—The Commission shall publicly identi-
11 fy on the website of the Commission each des-
12 ignated area that is in a covered period.

13 “(E) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

14 “(i) COVERED PERIOD.—The term
15 ‘covered period’ means a period that—

16 “(I) begins on the date of a dec-
17 laration by the President of a major
18 disaster under section 401 of the Rob-
19 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
20 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
21 5170) with respect to a designated
22 area; and

23 “(II) ends on the date that is 1
24 year after such date.

1 “(ii) DESIGNATED AREA.—The term
2 ‘designated area’ means a geographic area
3 for which a State has submitted a public
4 designation to the Commission stipulating
5 that the State has determined that the
6 prohibitions described in this paragraph
7 are necessary and in the public interest.

8 “(iii) VOICE SERVICE.—The term
9 ‘voice service’ has the meaning given the
10 term ‘voice service’ in section 227(e)(8).”.

11 (b) AMENDMENT OF FCC RULES REQUIRED.—Not
12 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
13 this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall
14 amend its rules to reflect the requirements of paragraph
15 (4) of section 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934
16 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)), as added by subsection (a).

17 (c) APPLICABILITY.—Paragraph (4) of section 251(e)
18 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)),
19 as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to a
20 major disaster declared by the President under section
21 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
22 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) after the date that
23 is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

