

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4128

To improve the collection and aggregation of fixed and mobile broadband internet service coverage data, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2019

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To improve the collection and aggregation of fixed and mobile broadband internet service coverage data, 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 “Map Improvement Act
5 of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
2 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
3 Commerce for Communications and Information.

4 (2) BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE.—The
5 term “broadband internet service”—

6 (A) means mass-market retail service by
7 wire or radio that provides the capability to
8 transmit data to and receive data from all or
9 substantially all internet endpoints, including
10 any capabilities that are incidental to and en-
11 able the operation of the communications serv-
12 ice;

13 (B) includes any service that the Commis-
14 sion finds to be providing a functional equiva-
15 lent of the service described in subparagraph
16 (A) or that is used to evade the protections set
17 forth in part 8 of title 47, Code of Federal Reg-
18 ulations, or any successor thereto; and

19 (C) does not include dial-up internet serv-
20 ice.

21 (3) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
22 means the Federal Communications Commission.

23 (4) END USER.—The term “end user” means
24 any individual or entity that uses a broadband inter-
25 net service.

1 (5) FIXED BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE.—

2 The term “fixed broadband internet service”
3 means—

4 (A) a broadband internet service that
5 serves end users primarily at fixed endpoints
6 using stationary equipment; and

7 (B) includes fixed wireless services, includ-
8 ing fixed unlicensed wireless services, and fixed
9 satellite services.

10 (6) GIS.—The term “GIS” means geographic
11 information systems.

12 (7) MOBILE BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE.—

13 The term “mobile broadband internet service” shall
14 have the meaning given such term by the Commis-
15 sion for purposes of this Act.

16 (8) STATE.—The term “State” means each
17 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
18 each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the
19 United States, and each federally recognized Indian
20 Tribe.

21 **SEC. 3. COLLECTION AND MAPPING OF FIXED AND MOBILE**

22 **BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE COVERAGE.**

23 (a) STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGY RULE.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission,

1 in coordination with the Assistant Secretary, shall
2 promulgate a final rule to establish a standardized
3 methodology for collecting and mapping accurate
4 fixed broadband internet service and mobile
5 broadband internet service coverage data in the
6 United States, which shall—

7 (A) ensure that coverage data for fixed
8 broadband internet service and mobile
9 broadband internet service is collected in a
10 standardized, consistent, and robust manner;

11 (B) improve the validity and reliability of
12 coverage data;

13 (C) increase the efficiency of coverage data
14 collection;

15 (D) contain standard definitions for dif-
16 ferent speed tiers, such as the 2G, 3G, 4G, and
17 4G LTE tiers and the equivalent for fixed
18 broadband internet service;

19 (E) ensure that the collection and valida-
20 tion process occurs on a regular basis; and

21 (F) establish a standardized ongoing vali-
22 dation process and public feedback mechanism
23 that will allow for consumers, State and local
24 officials, and broadband internet service pro-
25 viders to submit data to the Commission to

1 verify coverage data from broadband internet
2 service providers and challenge any aspects of
3 such data believed to be inaccurate.

4 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In promulgating the
5 rule required under paragraph (1), the Commission
6 shall consider—

7 (A) coordinating with the Postmaster Gen-
8 eral, the heads of other Federal agencies that
9 operate delivery fleet vehicles, and the Director
10 of the Bureau of the Census for assistance with
11 data collection and the feasibility of using more
12 granular address level data; and

13 (B) creating 1 centralized national map
14 with multiple layers, including a layer each for
15 fixed broadband internet service and mobile
16 broadband internet service, which may be used
17 in determining eligibility for all Federal
18 broadband internet service grant, loan, and sub-
19 sidy programs.

20 (3) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—The Com-
21 mission shall establish an Office of Broadband Data
22 Collection and Mapping within the Commission to
23 serve as the central point of collection, aggregation,
24 and validation of data collected under the standard-
25 ized methodology established under this subsection.

1 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary
3 shall establish a technical assistance program under
4 which the Assistant Secretary shall provide grants to
5 State and local entities, such as regional planning
6 organizations, to—

7 (A) assist such entities with mapping and
8 the development of a GIS-based map of existing
9 fixed broadband internet service and mobile
10 broadband internet service; and

11 (B) assess current broadband internet
12 service adoption rates and advertised broadband
13 internet service pricing in the community.

14 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds received under this
15 subsection—

16 (A) shall be used to—

17 (i) carry out the activities described in
18 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph
19 (1); and

20 (ii) participate in the standardized on-
21 going validation process and public feed-
22 back mechanism described in subsection
23 (a)(1)(F); and

24 (B) may be used to purchase GIS software
25 and for technical assistance with that software.

1 (3) OTHER USES FOR GIS SOFTWARE.—A
2 grantee may use GIS software acquired using funds
3 received under this subsection for other purposes in
4 addition to broadband internet service mapping.

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