

HR 1320

Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Mar 18, 2003

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 314.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 314. (Oct 17, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/1320>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Upton, Fred [R-MI-6]

Party: Republican • **State:** MI • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Boucher, Rick [D-VA-9]	D · VA		Mar 18, 2003
Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Mar 18, 2003
Rep. Stearns, Cliff [R-FL-6]	R · FL		Mar 18, 2003
Rep. Tauzin, W. J. (Billy) [R-LA-3]	R · LA		Mar 18, 2003
Rep. Terry, Lee [R-NE-2]	R · NE		Mar 18, 2003
Rep. Towns, Edolphus [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Mar 18, 2003
Rep. Bass, Charles F. [R-NH-2]	R · NH		Mar 19, 2003
Rep. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL-10]	R · IL		Mar 19, 2003
Rep. Pickering, Charles W. "Chip" [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Mar 19, 2003
Rep. Whitfield, Ed [R-KY-1]	R · KY		Mar 19, 2003
Rep. Doolittle, John T. [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Apr 3, 2003
Rep. Wynn, Albert Russell [D-MD-4]	D · MD		Apr 3, 2003
Rep. Gordon, Bart [D-TN-6]	D · TN		Apr 9, 2003
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Apr 9, 2003
Rep. Issa, Darrell E. [R-CA-49]	R · CA		Apr 29, 2003
Rep. Wilson, Heather [R-NM-1]	R · NM		Apr 29, 2003

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Oct 17, 2003
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Reported by	Apr 9, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act - (Sec. 2) Amends the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Organization Act to rewrite provisions concerning the reallocation of spectrum from governmental to commercial users.

Mandates that any Federal entity that operates a Government station assigned within eligible frequencies and that incurs relocation costs due to reallocation to non-Federal use receive reimbursement from the Spectrum Relocation Fund established in this Act. Includes within eligible frequencies: (1) the 216-220, 1432-1435, 1710-1755, and 2385-2390 megahertz bands; and (2) any other band reallocated from Federal to non-Federal use after January 1, 2003, by competitive bidding, except for bands previously identified by NTIA in the Spectrum Reallocation Final Report. Requires NTIA to notify the Federal Communications Commission (FCC): (1) at least 18 months prior to the commencement of any auction of eligible frequencies; and (2) at least six months prior to any auction of estimated relocation costs and timelines. Requires NTIA to submit a copy of the estimated relocation costs and timelines to specified congressional committees and the Comptroller General (CG).

Directs NTIA to: (1) ensure the timely relocation of Federal entities' spectrum-related operations from the eligible frequencies to frequencies or facilities of comparable quality; (2) terminate the entity's authority to operate on the former frequency; and (3) notify the FCC that the entity's relocation has been completed.

(Sec. 3) Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to require the FCC: (1) in designing competitive bidding under such auctions, to have as an objective the recovery of 110 percent of the estimated relocation costs; (2) to prescribe methods to ensure that the total cash proceeds from any auction equals at least 110 percent of such costs; and (3) to prohibit the FCC from concluding any auction under which such goal is not reached. Authorizes the FCC to grant a license for the advance use of eligible frequencies pending an auction, on the condition that the licensee cannot cause harmful interference to the Federal entity until the entity's authorization has been terminated.

(Sec. 4) Establishes the Spectrum Relocation Fund. Provides for: (1) the crediting of receipts from the spectrum auction to the Fund; and (2) the use of auction amounts to pay Federal entity costs of relocating from reallocated frequencies, under specified conditions, including submission of a plan from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to specified congressional committees and the CG detailing how such sums will be used to pay relocation costs and the timelines for such relocation. Allows a Federal entity to receive more than one transfer, but requires an explanation and CG review when the sum of a subsequent transfer exceeds ten percent of the original transfer.

(Sec. 5) Revises the basis for loans or other extensions of credit made to small businesses from the Telecommunications Development Fund.

(Sec. 7) Requires an annual report from NTIA to specified congressional committees and the CG on: (1) progress made in adhering to relocation timelines; and (2) estimated and actual relocation costs and amounts paid from the Fund.

(Sec. 8) Requires a report from the NTIA Administrator to specified congressional committees on various policy options to compensate Federal entities for relocation costs when their frequencies are allocated by the FCC for unlicensed, public safety, shared, or non-commercial use.

(Sec. 9) Amends the ORBIT Act to prohibit any license for fixed terrestrial services in the 12.2-12.7 gigahertz band from being used for the provision of mobile terrestrial telephony services.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 17, 2003:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator McCain with an amendment. With written report No. 108-168. Additional views filed.
- **Oct 17, 2003:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 314.
- **Jun 26, 2003:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably.
- **Jun 12, 2003:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
- **Jun 11, 2003:** Mr. Upton moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jun 11, 2003:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5179-5185)
- **Jun 11, 2003:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 1320.
- **Jun 11, 2003:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Jun 11, 2003:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H5198)
- **Jun 11, 2003:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 408 - 10 (Roll no. 260).(text: CR H5180-5181)
- **Jun 11, 2003:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 408 - 10 (Roll no. 260). (text: CR H5180-5181)
- **Jun 11, 2003:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jun 3, 2003:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Energy and Commerce. H. Rept. 108-137.
- **Jun 3, 2003:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 71.
- **Apr 30, 2003:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 30, 2003:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Apr 9, 2003:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 9, 2003:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Mar 25, 2003:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Mar 24, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.
- **Mar 18, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 18, 2003:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

legiList.com

Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

legiList.com/learn

Developer API: Build Apps on Legislative Data

The LegiList API gives developers direct access to bills, votes, legislators, committees, and more. Start free with 1,000 requests per day — no credit card required. Upgrade to Pro when you need to scale.

legiList.com/api

Public data belongs to the public. — legiList.com