

## HR 138

Rural America Digital Accessibility Act

**Congress:** 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Science, Technology, Communications

**Introduced:** Jan 7, 2003

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Research.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Research. (Feb 20, 2003)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/138>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. McHugh, John M. [R-NY-23]

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

### Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. McIntyre, Mike [D-NC-7]	D · NC		Jan 28, 2003
Rep. Case, Ed [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Feb 4, 2003
Rep. LaTourette, Steven C. [R-OH-14]	R · OH		Feb 4, 2003
Rep. Boehlert, Sherwood [R-NY-24]	R · NY		Feb 12, 2003
Rep. Peterson, John E. [R-PA-5]	R · PA		Feb 12, 2003
Rep. Simmons, Rob [R-CT-2]	R · CT		Feb 25, 2003
Rep. Fattah, Chaka [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Apr 9, 2003
Rep. Edwards, Chet [D-TX-11]	D · TX		Jun 9, 2004

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 3, 2003
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 20, 2003
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 20, 2003
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 7, 2003

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## Summary (as of Jan 7, 2003)

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Rural America Digital Accessibility Act - Authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to make grants or guarantee loans in order to facilitate the deployment by the private sector of broadband telecommunications networks and capabilities (including wireless and satellite services) to underserved rural areas. Limits to \$100 million the total amount of such grants and loan guarantees.

Requires the Director of the National Science Foundation to research the enhancement or facilitation of broadband telecommunications services in rural and other remote areas, as well as Internet access through such services.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to provide a tax credit to holders of qualified technology bonds (bonds representing an investment in projects to expand such telecommunications services). Sets a national technology bond limitation of \$100 million for each of FY 2003 through 2007, and zero thereafter (with an exception) to be allocated by the Secretary among the qualified projects designated each year.

Directs the Secretary to provide financial assistance for the establishment and support of regional centers for the commercial use of advanced technologies by small and medium-sized businesses.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Feb 20, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment, Technology, and Standards.
- **Feb 20, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Research.
- **Feb 3, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.
- **Jan 7, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 7, 2003:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Science, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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