

HR 4129

VoIP Regulatory Freedom Act of 2004

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Apr 2, 2004

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. (Apr 8, 2004)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/4129>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Pickering, Charles W. "Chip" [R-MS-3]

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

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cannon, Chris [R-UT-3]	R · UT		Apr 20, 2004
Rep. Walsh, James T. [R-NY-25]	R · NY		Apr 20, 2004
Rep. Ferguson, Mike [R-NJ-7]	R · NJ		Jul 22, 2004
Rep. Saxton, Jim [R-NJ-3]	R · NJ		Jul 22, 2004
Rep. Shadegg, John B. [R-AZ-3]	R · AZ		Jul 22, 2004

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 8, 2004
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Apr 2, 2004

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

VoIP Regulatory Freedom Act of 2004 - Reserves solely to the Federal Government the responsibility and authority to regulate the offering or provision of a voice-over-Internet-protocol (VoIP) application (an application that uses the Internet or any successor protocol to offer two-way or multidirectional voice communications). Prohibits State regulation, or delegation to States, of such authority.

Directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to: (1) establish rules and standards for appropriate arrangements to compensate providers of facilities and equipment used to transmit communications employing a connected VoIP application; and (2) maximize participation in the support of universal service among the greatest number of providers of connected VoIP applications. Requires such providers to assist the Federal Government in enforcement actions.

Requires the FCC to appoint an appropriate representative industry organization to develop guidelines, protocols, or performance requirements pertaining to the offering or provision of connected VoIP applications for: (1) providing comparable capabilities to 911 services; (2) improving use by the disabled community; (3) improving reliability of VoIP applications; and (4) ensuring appropriate security for the application and voice communications.

Prohibits a State or political subdivision from imposing a tax or other charge on the offering or provision of a VoIP application.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 8, 2004:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.
- **Apr 2, 2004:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 2, 2004:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E526-527)
- **Apr 2, 2004:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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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