

S 3820

Broadband for Rural America Act of 2006

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Aug 3, 2006

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR S8836-8839) (Aug 3, 2006)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/3820>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]

Party: Democratic • **State:** IL • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Aug 3, 2006

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Broadband for Rural America Act of 2006 - Establishes the Broadband Access Trust Fund. Establishes, in the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Office of Broadband Access to coordinate the use of all Fund resources as those resources relate to the expansion of broadband technology into rural or unserved areas. Deposits into the Fund appropriations and one percent of the proceeds of frequency band auctions.

Amends provisions of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 relating to making or guaranteeing loans for broadband facilities and equipment in eligible rural communities to: (1) to extend the period for making or guaranteeing such loans; (2) modify the definition of "eligible rural community;" (3) remove provisions giving priority to communities in which residential broadband service is not available; and (4) modify loan eligibility criteria. Authorizes grants to provide broadband services.

Requires the FCC to issue a final order in the matter of *Unlicensed Operation in TV Broadcast Bands*. Sets forth requirements for the order, including that it allow certified unlicensed devices to use certain non-licensed television broadcast channels in rural areas.

Requires the FCC to initiate a proceeding to reconfigure its band plans: (1) for the upper 700 MHz band and the unauctioned portions of the lower 700 MHz band to designate up to 12 MHz of paired recovered analog spectrum; and (2) to include spectrum to be licensed for small geographic license areas.

Establishes the Rural Broadband Access Task Force to study broadband deployment.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 3, 2006:** Introduced in Senate
- **Aug 3, 2006:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S8833-8836)
- **Aug 3, 2006:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR S8836-8839)