S 251

Safe Prisons Communications Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications
Introduced: Jan 15, 2009
Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. (Oct 19, 2009)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/251

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Hutchison, Kay Bailey [R-TX]
Party: Republican • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. DeMint, Jim [R-SC]	R · SC		Jan 15, 2009
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Feb 9, 2009
Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA]	R · LA		Feb 9, 2009
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Feb 9, 2009
Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]	R · MS		Feb 27, 2009
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 20, 2009
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [ID-CT]	ID · CT		Jun 4, 2009
Sen. Begich, Mark [D-AK]	D · AK		Jul 15, 2009
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 16, 2009
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 16, 2009
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Jul 23, 2009
Sen. Pryor, Mark L. [D-AR]	D · AR		Jul 23, 2009
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Aug 4, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 24, 2009
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	Oct 6, 2009
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Oct 19, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 560	Identical bill	**Mar 16, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Summary (as of Oct 5, 2009)

Safe Prisons Communications Act of 2009 - (Sec. 2) Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to authorize the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to permit the supervisory authority of a correctional facility to operate a jamming system within the facility to prevent, jam, or otherwise interfere with unauthorized wireless communications by individuals held in the facility. Defines "supervisory authority" as the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the chief executive officer of a state, or the person in charge of a county or local correctional facility not under the authority of the chief executive officer of a state.

Requires the supervisory authority: (1) to file a notice of intent with the FCC; and (2) if requested by the public agencies and commercial mobile service providers identified by the FCC, consult with them to determine the types of equipment, facilities and frequencies in use in the correctional facility's area, and provide testing access to the outer perimeter of the correctional facility. Authorizes the supervisory authority upon completion of such procedures to file a petition with the FCC to install and operate a jamming system. Requires FCC action within 60 days of petition receipt.

States that an approved petition shall be: (1) valid for up to five years and renewable; and (2) terminated or suspended if the FCC receives notice from a commercial mobile service provider, supported by affidavit and documentation, that the correctional facility jamming device is interfering with commercial mobile service.

Sets forth jamming use limitations.

Requires a supervisory authority to: (1) destroy a jamming device within 60 days after an authorization expires; (2) destroy a jamming device that is permanently removed from service; (3) certify such destruction to the FCC; and (4) notify the FCC upon acquisition of any jamming device that replaces a destroyed device.

Requires the FCC to maintain a petition database.

(Sec. 3) Requires the FCC to promulgate final regulations governing the use of wireless jamming systems in correctional facilities within 180 days of enactment of this Act.

(Sec. 4) Requires the FCC to: (1) adopt a final rule within 120 days of enactment of this Act establishing the criteria for the manufacture, sale, importation, and interstate shipment of jamming devices; and (2) maintain a website list of all approved devices.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 19, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
- **Oct 6, 2009:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Oct 6, 2009:** Received in the House.
- **Oct 6, 2009:** Referred to House Energy and Commerce
- **Oct 6, 2009:** 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.
- **Oct 6, 2009:** Referred to House Judiciary
- **Oct 5, 2009:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S10115-10117; text as passed Senate: CR S10115-10117)
- **Oct 5, 2009:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S10115-10117; text as passed Senate: CR S10115-10117)
- **Sep 24, 2009:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Rockefeller with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 111-79.
- **Sep 24, 2009:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 166.
- **Aug 5, 2009:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jul 15, 2009:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Hearings held.
- **Jan 15, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 15, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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