

HR 3118

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to revisit the universal service support program under section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse, and for other purposes.

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Oct 6, 2011

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. (Oct 7, 2011)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-bill/3118>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Farenthold, Blake [R-TX-27]

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

Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Oct 6, 2011
Rep. Flores, Bill [R-TX-17]	R · TX		Oct 6, 2011
Rep. Harris, Andy [R-MD-1]	R · MD		Oct 6, 2011
Rep. Kelly, Mike [R-PA-3]	R · PA		Oct 6, 2011
Rep. Kingston, Jack [R-GA-1]	R · GA		Oct 6, 2011
Rep. Mulvaney, Mick [R-SC-5]	R · SC		Oct 6, 2011
Rep. Nunnelee, Alan [R-MS-1]	R · MS		Oct 6, 2011
Rep. Paul, Ron [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Oct 6, 2011
Rep. Ellmers, Renee L. [R-NC-2]	R · NC		Oct 25, 2011
Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]	R · TX		Oct 26, 2011
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-15]	R · FL		Nov 30, 2011
Rep. Foxx, Virginia [R-NC-5]	R · NC		Mar 8, 2012

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Oct 7, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Prohibits the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from forbearing from requirements specified in the Communications Act of 1934 with respect to the designation of eligible telecommunications carriers (ETC) to receive support under the universal service support program. Directs the FCC, within 120 days, to suspend ETC designations received through forbearance of such requirements.

Requires an eligible ETC, in advertising the availability of services supported by federal universal service support mechanisms, to specify that the service charges are more than zero.

Requires that: (1) the amount collected to support such universal service each year be the same amount collected for FY2011, and (2) \$500 million from such amount be transferred annually to the general fund of the Treasury and be unavailable for obligation or expenditure.

Directs the FCC to complete a rulemaking with respect to programs that provide universal service support to low income consumers (commonly known as the Lifeline and Link-up programs) to: (1) ensure that service is supported for only one telephone connection per household regardless of whether the telephone is provided through landline or commercial mobile service, (2) identify and prevent duplicate reimbursements, (3) require ETCs to implement a 60-day inactivity policy for commercial mobile services, and (4) guide the Universal Service Administrative Company on the recovery of improper payments.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 7, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **Oct 6, 2011:** Introduced in House
- **Oct 6, 2011:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.