

HR 1123

Unlocking Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Act

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Mar 13, 2013

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Feb 26, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/1123>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Goodlatte, Bob [R-VA-6]

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

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Coble, Howard [R-NC-6]	R · NC		Mar 13, 2013
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Mar 13, 2013
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Mar 13, 2013
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		Mar 13, 2013
Rep. Watt, Melvin L. [D-NC-12]	D · NC		Mar 13, 2013
Rep. Jeffries, Hakeem S. [D-NY-8]	D · NY		Mar 19, 2013
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Mar 19, 2013
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Mar 19, 2013
Rep. Chaffetz, Jason [R-UT-3]	R · UT		Jul 31, 2013
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Jul 31, 2013

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Discharged from	Jul 22, 2013
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 26, 2014

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 S 517	Identical bill	Aug 1, 2014: Became Public Law No: 113-144.

Unlocking Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Act - Repeals a Library of Congress (LOC) rulemaking determination, made upon the recommendation of the Register of Copyrights, regarding the circumvention of technological measures controlling access to copyrighted software on wireless telephone handsets (mobile telephones) for the purpose of connecting to different wireless telecommunications networks (a practice commonly referred to as "unlocking" such devices). Reestablishes, as an exemption to provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) prohibiting such circumvention, a previous LOC rule permitting the use of computer programs, in the form of firmware or software, that enable used wireless telephone handsets to connect to a wireless telecommunications network, when circumvention is initiated by the owner of the copy of such computer program solely to connect to such a network and access to the network is authorized by the network operator, thus permitting unlocked phones.

Directs the Librarian of Congress, upon the recommendation of the Register, to determine whether to extend such exemption to include any other category of wireless devices in addition to wireless telephone handsets (e.g., tablets and other mobile broadband-enabled devices).

Allows such circumvention (unlocking) to be initiated by the owner of such a device, by another person at the direction of the owner, or by a provider of a commercial mobile radio service or a commercial mobile data service at the direction of such owner or other person, solely in order to enable such owner or a family member of such owner to connect to a wireless telecommunications network, when such connection is authorized by the operator of such network. Prohibits such owner-directed unlocking from being construed to: (1) permit the unlocking of devices for the purpose of bulk resale, or (2) authorize the Librarian to authorize circumvention for such purpose.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 26, 2014:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
- **Feb 25, 2014:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Judiciary. H. Rept. 113-356.
- **Feb 25, 2014:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 264.
- **Feb 25, 2014:** Mr. Goodlatte moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended. (consideration: CR H1904)
- **Feb 25, 2014:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H1904-1912)
- **Feb 25, 2014:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 1123.
- **Feb 25, 2014:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Feb 25, 2014:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H1922-1923)
- **Feb 25, 2014:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 295 - 114 (Roll no. 64).(text: CR H1904-1905)
- **Feb 25, 2014:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 295 - 114 (Roll no. 64). (text: CR H1904-1905)
- **Jul 31, 2013:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jul 31, 2013:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Jul 22, 2013:** Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet Discharged.
- **Jun 6, 2013:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Apr 15, 2013:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, And The Internet.
- **Mar 13, 2013:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 13, 2013:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.