

## S 517

### Unlocking Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Act

**Congress:** 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Science, Technology, Communications

**Introduced:** Mar 11, 2013

**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 113-144.

**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 113-144. (Aug 1, 2014)

**Law:** 113-144 (Enacted Aug 1, 2014)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/517>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]

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

### Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 11, 2013
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Mar 11, 2013
Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]	R · UT		Mar 11, 2013
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 11, 2013
Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]	R · UT		Mar 11, 2013
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 13, 2013
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Apr 15, 2013
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Jul 9, 2014
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jul 10, 2014
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jul 10, 2014

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jul 10, 2014

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 1123	Identical bill	Feb 26, 2014: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**(This measure has not been amended since it was reported to the Senate on July 10, 2014. The summary of that version is repeated here.)**

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 this Act from being construed to alter any party's rights under existing law.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Aug 1, 2014:** Signed by President.
- **Aug 1, 2014:** Became Public Law No: 113-144.
- **Jul 28, 2014:** Presented to President.
- **Jul 25, 2014:** Mr. Chaffetz asked unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table and consider.
- **Jul 25, 2014:** Considered by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR H6835-6836)
- **Jul 25, 2014:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed by voice vote.(text: CR H6835-6836)
- **Jul 25, 2014:** On passage Passed by voice vote. (text: CR H6835-6836)
- **Jul 25, 2014:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 17, 2014:** By Senator Leahy from Committee on the Judiciary filed written report. Report No. 113-212.
- **Jul 16, 2014:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jul 16, 2014:** Received in the House.
- **Jul 16, 2014:** Held at the desk.
- **Jul 15, 2014:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S4510-4511; text as passed Senate: CR S4510-4511)
- **Jul 15, 2014:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S4510-4511; text as passed Senate: CR S4510-4511)
- **Jul 10, 2014:** Committee on the Judiciary. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably.
- **Jul 10, 2014:** Committee on the Judiciary. Reported by Senator Leahy with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Jul 10, 2014:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 461.
- **Mar 11, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 11, 2013:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S1594-1595)
- **Mar 11, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S1595)