

HR 3152

Rural Broadband Initiative Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jul 22, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit. (Aug 6, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3152>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MN • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Jan 5, 2016
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Feb 12, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 6, 2015
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 24, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Rural Broadband Initiative Act

This bill amends the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to establish an Office of Rural Broadband Initiatives at the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and an Under Secretary for Rural Broadband Initiatives appointed by the President to head the Office.

The Under Secretary is responsible for administering all rural broadband-related grant and loan programs previously administered by the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service and must:

- conduct nationwide outreach to rural areas;
- foster the development of a comprehensive rural broadband strategic vision;
- plan coordination of federal resources for state, regional, and local governments to assist rural areas;
- assess all relevant technologies;
- serve as a single information source for and coordinate all federal rural broadband programs and services; and
- provide technical assistance to state, regional, and local governments.

The Under Secretary must also:

- submit to the President and Congress a comprehensive rural broadband strategy;
- submit to Congress a plan to establish a Rural Broadband Advisory Panel;
- establish a web-based clearinghouse that describes options, opportunities, resources, successful public-private partnerships, funding sources, and technology tutorials; and
- revise the rules and qualification criteria for the loan and loan guarantee programs.

USDA must report to Congress on the resources and staff necessary to carry out this bill, and the Government Accountability Office must review the report.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 6, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit.
- **Jul 24, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **Jul 22, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 22, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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.