

HR 3998

Securing Access to Networks in Disasters Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Nov 16, 2015

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (May 24, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3998>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9]	D · NJ		Jan 12, 2016
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Jan 12, 2016
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Jan 12, 2016
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Feb 9, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 24, 2016
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Reported by	Apr 19, 2016
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 17, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 2997	Related bill	Dec 6, 2016: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 702.
114 S 253	Related bill	Sep 28, 2016: Message on House action received in Senate and at desk: House amendments to Senate bill.

Securing Access to Networks in Disasters Act

(Sec. 2) This bill requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to submit to Congress and publish on the FCC website a study on the public safety benefits, technical feasibility, and cost of providing the public with access to 9-1-1 services during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable, through:

- telecommunications service provider-owned WiFi access points and other communications technologies operating on unlicensed spectrum, without requiring any login credentials;
- non-telecommunications service provider-owned WiFi access points; and
- other alternative means.

The types of emergencies subject to this bill are: (1) occasions or instances under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for which the President determines that federal assistance is needed to supplement state and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States; or (2) an emergency declared by the governor of a state or U.S. territory.

(Sec. 3) The Stafford Act is amended to expand the categories of essential service providers that may access a disaster site to restore and repair essential services in an emergency or major disaster without being denied or impeded by a federal agency. Services to be considered essential are wireline or mobile telephone service, Internet access service, radio or television broadcasting, cable service, or direct broadcast satellite service.

Actions Timeline

- **May 24, 2016:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
- **May 23, 2016:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Energy and Commerce. H. Rept. 114-583, Part I.
- **May 23, 2016:** Committee on Transportation discharged.
- **May 23, 2016:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 453.
- **May 23, 2016:** Mr. Walden moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **May 23, 2016:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H2890-2891)
- **May 23, 2016:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 3998.
- **May 23, 2016:** 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.
- **May 23, 2016:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H2930)
- **May 23, 2016:** 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): 389 - 2 (Roll no. 230). (text: CR H2890)
- **May 23, 2016:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 389 - 2 (Roll no. 230). (text: CR H2890)
- **May 23, 2016:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **May 23, 2016:** The title of the measure was amended. Agreed to without objection.
- **Apr 28, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 28, 2016:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Apr 27, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 26, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 25, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 19, 2016:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 19, 2016:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote .
- **Apr 18, 2016:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Nov 20, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **Nov 17, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management.
- **Nov 16, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 16, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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.