

## HR 615

DHS Interoperable Communications Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Emergency Management

**Introduced:** Jan 28, 2015

**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 114-29.

**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 114-29. (Jul 6, 2015)

**Law:** 114-29 (Enacted Jul 6, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/615>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]

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

### Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Brooks, Susan W. [R-IN-5]	R · IN		Jan 28, 2015
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		Jan 28, 2015
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Jan 28, 2015
Rep. McSally, Martha [R-AZ-2]	R · AZ		Feb 2, 2015

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	May 21, 2015
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 2, 2015

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Emergency Management

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

(This measure has not been amended since it was reported to the Senate on May 21, 2015. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

## **Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act or the DHS Interoperable Communications Act**

(Sec. 3) Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) responsible for policies and directives to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among DHS components.

(Sec. 4) Requires the Under Secretary to submit to the House and Senate homeland security committees a strategy for achieving and maintaining such communications, including for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies, that includes:

- an assessment of interoperability gaps in radio communications among the DHS components;
- information on DHS efforts and activities, since November 1, 2012, and planned, to achieve and maintain interoperable communications;
- an assessment of obstacles and challenges to achieving and maintaining interoperable communications;
- information on, and an assessment of, the adequacy of mechanisms available to the Under Secretary to enforce and compel compliance with interoperable communications policies and directives of DHS;
- guidance provided to DHS components to implement such policies and directives;
- the total amount of DHS expenditures since November 1, 2012, and projected future expenditures to achieve interoperable communications; and
- dates upon which DHS-wide interoperability is projected to be achieved for voice, data, and video communications, respectively, and interim milestones.

Directs the Under Secretary to submit with such strategy information on: (1) any intra-agency effort or task force that has been delegated responsibilities relating to achieving and maintaining interoperable communications by such dates; and (2) who, within each component, is responsible for implementing policies and directives issued by the Under Secretary to achieve and maintain interoperable communications.

(Sec. 5) Directs the Under Secretary, within 100 days after the strategy is submitted and every 2 years thereafter for 6 years, to submit reports on the status of efforts to implement such strategy, including: (1) progress on interim milestones; (2) information on establishment by the Under Secretary of, and compliance of DHS components with, policies, directives, guidance, and training to achieve and maintain interoperable communications; and (3) information on any additional resources or authorities needed by the Under Secretary.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jul 6, 2015:** Signed by President.
- **Jul 6, 2015:** Became Public Law No: 114-29.
- **Jun 24, 2015:** Presented to President.
- **Jun 23, 2015:** Ms. McSally moved that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment. (consideration: CR H4578-4579)
- **Jun 23, 2015:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment to H.R. 615.
- **Jun 23, 2015:** Resolving differences -- House actions: On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to by voice vote.(text as House agreed to Senate amendment: CR H4578)
- **Jun 23, 2015:** On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to by voice vote. (text as House agreed to Senate amendment: CR H4578)
- **Jun 23, 2015:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jun 12, 2015:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jun 11, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S4116-4117; text as passed Senate: CR S4116-4117)
- **Jun 11, 2015:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S4116-4117; text as passed Senate: CR S4116-4117)
- **May 21, 2015:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Johnson with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 114-53.
- **May 21, 2015:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 95.
- **Mar 4, 2015:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Feb 3, 2015:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
- **Feb 2, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications.
- **Feb 2, 2015:** Mr. Carter (GA) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Feb 2, 2015:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H677-680)
- **Feb 2, 2015:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 615.
- **Feb 2, 2015:** 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 2, 2015:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H684-685)
- **Feb 2, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 379 - 0 (Roll no. 52).(text: CR H677-678)
- **Feb 2, 2015:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 379 - 0 (Roll no. 52). (text: CR H677-678)
- **Feb 2, 2015:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jan 28, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 28, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security.