

S 827

Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2016

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Mar 19, 2015

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 687.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 687. (Nov 28, 2016)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/827

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]

Party: Democratic • State: MN • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Mar 19, 2015
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 14, 2015
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 16, 2015
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Jun 23, 2015
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Apr 21, 2016
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Jun 28, 2016
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Jul 7, 2016
Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]	R · IA		Jul 11, 2016
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Sep 22, 2016
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Sep 26, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Nov 28, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 2566	Identical bill	Nov 16, 2016: Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 668.
114 S 253	Related bill	Sep 28, 2016: Message on House action received in Senate and at desk: House amendments to Senate bill.

Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2016

(Sec. 2) This bill amends the Communications Act of 1934 to require intermediate providers that offer the capability to transmit voice communications and signaling information from one destination to another, and that charge a rate to any other entity (including an affiliated entity) for such a transmission, to: (1) register with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and (2) comply with service quality standards to be established by the FCC.

An "intermediate provider" is an entity that: (1) enters a business arrangement with a long-distance voice service provider that makes the initial call path choice for more than 100,000 domestic retail subscriber lines, or with another intermediate provider, to carry, route, or transmit voice traffic from a call placed from or to an end user connection using a North American Numbering Plan resource; and (2) does not itself (directly or in conjunction with an affiliate) serve as such a long-distance initial call path choice provider in the context of originating or terminating a given call.

The bill prohibits such long-distance providers (including local exchange carriers, interexchange carriers, commercial mobile radio services, interconnected voice over Internet Protocol [VoIP] services, and certain non-interconnected VoIP services) from using an intermediate provider to transmit voice communications and signals unless the intermediate provider is so registered.

The FCC must: (1) ensure the integrity of the transmission of voice communications to all customers in the United States, (2) prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such voice communications, and (3) make a registry of intermediate providers publicly available on the FCC website.

The bill shall not be construed to preempt or expand the authority of a state agency or public utility commission to collect data, or enforce state law and regulations, regarding the completion of intrastate voice communications.

Certain long-distance providers that make initial call path choices are exempt from service quality standards that the FCC is required to establish under this bill if they certify under a safe harbor provision in existing FCC rules that they monitor the performance of, or do not use, intermediate providers.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 28, 2016:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Thune with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 114-383.
- **Nov 28, 2016:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 687.
- **Jun 29, 2016:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Mar 19, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 19, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.