

HR 460

Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jan 11, 2017

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

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Jan 24, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/460>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Young, David [R-IA-3]

Party: Republican • State: IA • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (11 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND-At Large]	R · ND		Jan 11, 2017
Rep. Duffy, Sean P. [R-WI-7]	R · WI		Jan 11, 2017
Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]	D · WI		Jan 11, 2017
Rep. Latta, Robert E. [R-OH-5]	R · OH		Jan 11, 2017
Rep. Loebsack, David [D-IA-2]	D · IA		Jan 11, 2017
Rep. Noem, Kristi L. [R-SD-At Large]	R · SD		Jan 11, 2017
Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]	D · MN		Jan 11, 2017
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Jan 11, 2017
Rep. Stewart, Chris [R-UT-2]	R · UT		Jan 11, 2017
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Jan 11, 2017
Rep. Luetkemeyer, Blaine [R-MO-3]	R · MO		Jan 17, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 24, 2017
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 11, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 4986	Related bill	Mar 7, 2018: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
115 S 96	Identical bill	Feb 26, 2018: Became Public Law No: 115-129.

Summary (as of Jan 23, 2017)

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary has been expanded because action occurred on the measure.)

Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2017

(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

- **Jan 24, 2017:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
- **Jan 23, 2017:** Mr. Lance moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Jan 23, 2017:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H582-586; H583-586)
- **Jan 23, 2017:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 460.
- **Jan 23, 2017:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text of measure as passed: CR H582-583; H583-584)
- **Jan 23, 2017:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text of measure as passed: CR H582-583; H583-584)
- **Jan 23, 2017:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jan 11, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 11, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.