

HR 588

Securing Access to Networks in Disasters Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jan 17, 2017

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. (Jan 24, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/588>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

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 17, 2017
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 18, 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 102	Related bill	Sep 12, 2017: Held at the desk.

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

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

- **Jan 24, 2017:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
- **Jan 23, 2017:** Mr. Davis, Rodney moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Jan 23, 2017:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H579-581)
- **Jan 23, 2017:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 588.
- **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 H579)
- **Jan 23, 2017:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text of measure as passed: CR H579)
- **Jan 23, 2017:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jan 18, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management.
- **Jan 17, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 17, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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.