

HR 600

Digital GAP Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jan 23, 2017

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 624.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 624. (Oct 5, 2018)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/600>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Royce, Edward R. [R-CA-39]

Party: Republican • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2017
Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]	R · WA		Jan 23, 2017
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Jan 23, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 23, 2017
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Reported By	Oct 5, 2018

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

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

Digital Global Access Policy Act of 2017 or the Digital GAP Act

(Sec. 4) This bill states that it is U.S. policy to coordinate with foreign governments, international and regional organizations, businesses, and civil society to close the digital gap in developing countries.

(Sec. 5) The President is urged to direct U.S. representatives to international bodies to advocate for: (1) increasing efforts to promote affordable and gender-equitable Internet access and integrating such access data into economic and business assessments, evaluations, and indexes; (2) standardizing inclusion of broadband conduit-fiber optic cables; (3) providing technical assistance to remove investment barriers and strengthen market growth; and (4) protecting human rights online.

(Sec. 6) It is the sense of Congress that: (1) the Department of State should seek to enhance the effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance efforts in carrying out the policies and objectives of this bill, including by redesignating an existing Assistant Secretary position in the State Department to be the Assistant Secretary for Cyberspace; and (2) the U.S. Agency for International Development should integrate efforts to expand Internet access and establish guidelines for the protection of personal information of individuals served by humanitarian, disaster, and development programs.

(Sec.8) The Peace Corps Act is amended to express the sense of Congress that the Peace Corps should develop volunteer positions focused on leveraging technology for development, education, and social and economic mobility.

(Sec. 9) The President shall transmit plans to Congress to promote U.S. and U.S.-funded agency partnerships with the private and public sectors to provide Internet access or infrastructure in developing countries.

(Sec. 10) The President shall report to Congress on efforts to implement the policies specified in this bill.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 5, 2018:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Reported by Senator Corker with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Oct 5, 2018:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 624.
- **Sep 26, 2018:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jan 30, 2017:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
- **Jan 24, 2017:** Mr. Royce (CA) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Jan 24, 2017:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H657-660)
- **Jan 24, 2017:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 600.
- **Jan 24, 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 H657-658)
- **Jan 24, 2017:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text of measure as passed: CR H657-658)
- **Jan 24, 2017:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jan 23, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 23, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.