

S 96

Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jan 11, 2017

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 115-129.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 115-129. (Feb 26, 2018)

Law: 115-129 (Enacted Feb 26, 2018)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/96>

Sponsor

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

Party: Democratic • **State:** MN • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Jan 11, 2017
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Jan 11, 2017
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Feb 1, 2017
Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]	R · IA		Feb 15, 2017
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Feb 15, 2017
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 28, 2017
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Mar 7, 2017
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Mar 30, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Mar 21, 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 HR 460	Identical bill	Jan 24, 2017: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

(This measure has not been amended since it was reported to the Senate on March 21, 2017. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

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

- **Feb 26, 2018:** Signed by President.
- **Feb 26, 2018:** Became Public Law No: 115-129.
- **Feb 14, 2018:** Presented to President.
- **Feb 9, 2018:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR 2/8/2018 H1002)
- **Feb 9, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H990-991)
- **Feb 9, 2018:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H990-991)
- **Feb 9, 2018:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Feb 8, 2018:** Mr. Lance moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Feb 8, 2018:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H990-992)
- **Feb 8, 2018:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 96.
- **Feb 8, 2018:** At the conclusion of debate, the chair put the question on the motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Lance objected to the vote on the grounds that a quorum was not present. Further proceedings on the motion were postponed. The point of no quorum was considered as withdrawn.
- **Aug 4, 2017:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Aug 4, 2017:** Received in the House.
- **Aug 4, 2017:** Held at the desk.
- **Aug 3, 2017:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S4815-4816; text: CR S4815-4816)
- **Aug 3, 2017:** Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S4815-4816; text: CR S4815-4816)
- **Mar 21, 2017:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Thune without amendment. With written report No. 115-6.
- **Mar 21, 2017:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 19.
- **Jan 24, 2017:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Jan 11, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 11, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.