

S 1611

DIGIT Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: May 22, 2019

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. (Jan 10, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1611>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]

Party: Republican • **State:** NE • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 22, 2019
Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO]	R · CO		May 22, 2019
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		May 22, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 17, 2019
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 10, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 8115	Related bill	Aug 25, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Developing Innovation and Growing the Internet of Things Act or the DIGIT Act

This bill requires the Department of Commerce to convene a working group of federal stakeholders to provide recommendations regarding the Internet of Things (IoT), and it establishes a steering committee composed of stakeholders outside the federal government to advise the working group. The IoT is a system of interrelated devices connected to a network and each other that exchange data without requiring human interaction (e.g., smart home devices, medical monitoring devices, and wearable fitness trackers).

The working group must (1) identify federal laws and regulations, grant practices, budgetary or jurisdictional challenges, and other sector-specific policies that inhibit IoT development; (2) consider policies or programs that encourage and improve coordination among federal agencies with relevant responsibilities; (3) consider implementing recommendations from the steering committee; (4) examine how federal agencies can benefit from, use, prepare for, and secure the IoT; and (5) consult with nongovernmental stakeholders.

The steering committee must advise the working group about laws, budgets, spectrum needs, individual privacy, security, small business challenges, and any international proceedings or negotiations affecting the IoT.

Lastly, the Federal Communications Commission must (1) seek public comment on the IoT's spectrum needs, regulatory barriers, and growth with licensed and unlicensed spectrum; and (2) submit a summary of those comments to Congress.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 10, 2020:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **Jan 9, 2020:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jan 9, 2020:** Received in the House.
- **Jan 9, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
- **Jan 8, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with amendments by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S81-84; text: CR S83-84)
- **Jan 8, 2020:** Passed Senate with amendments by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S81-84; text: CR S83-84)
- **Dec 17, 2019:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Wicker with amendments. With written report No. 116-179.
- **Dec 17, 2019:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 375.
- **Jul 10, 2019:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with amendments favorably.
- **May 22, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 22, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.