

S 4095

Emergency Broadband Connections Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jun 29, 2020

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Jun 29, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4095>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]

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

Cosponsors (28 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 29, 2020
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 2, 2020
Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL]	D · AL		Jul 2, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 29, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 6881	Related bill	May 14, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Emergency Broadband Connections Act of 2020

This bill establishes an emergency broadband benefit for certain households during the emergency period related to COVID-19, and it modifies the Lifeline program of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which reduces the cost of communications services for low-income consumers.

Specifically, the bill requires a broadband service provider to provide a low-income household, upon request, with broadband internet service at a price that is discounted in an amount equal to the emergency broadband benefit for such household. The emergency broadband benefit is a monthly discount that is applied to the normal or special rate for internet service. Further, the bill establishes the Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund from which the FCC shall reimburse a provider in an amount equal to the emergency broadband benefit provided to a household. Providers that supply discounted connected devices (e.g., computers) to eligible households may also receive certain reimbursements from the fund.

The bill requires service providers participating in the FCC's Lifeline program to provide an unlimited number of minutes and data during the emergency period. The bill also requires the FCC to make a grant to each state for connecting the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program) database to the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier, so that receipt of SNAP benefits is reflected in the Lifeline verifier. The verifier determines consumer eligibility for the Lifeline program, and receipt of SNAP benefits automatically qualifies a household for Lifeline service.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 29, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
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