

S 4201

A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to take certain actions to accelerate the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction, and for other purposes.

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jul 2, 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. (Jul 2, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4201>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]

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

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Jul 2, 2020
Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN]	R · IN		Jul 2, 2020
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jul 2, 2020
Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL]	D · AL		Jul 2, 2020
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Jul 27, 2020
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 27, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 2, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 7447	Related bill	Jul 1, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
116 HR 7022	Related bill	May 27, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

This bill requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to take specified actions to expedite the provision of broadband internet access service in unserved rural areas.

Specifically, the FCC must modify the framework for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction, which aims to facilitate the provision of broadband service to areas that are wholly unserved. Among other requirements, the FCC (1) must accept long-form applications prior to such auction from applicants that are willing to commit to a specified schedule for deploying broadband internet access service, and (2) shall not require applicants to be designated as eligible telecommunications carriers in order to receive Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support.

In addition, the bill establishes a deadline of October 1, 2020, for the FCC to create broadband maps that depict the extent of availability of broadband service in the United States and the areas that remain unserved.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 2, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 2, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.