

HR 451

Don't Break Up the T-Band Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jan 10, 2019

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transp

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Sep 24, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/451>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (24 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9]	D · TX		Jan 10, 2019
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		Jan 10, 2019
Rep. Zeldin, Lee M. [R-NY-1]	R · NY		Jan 10, 2019
Rep. Rose, Max [D-NY-11]	D · NY		Mar 7, 2019
Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Apr 12, 2019
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Apr 12, 2019
Rep. Torres, Norma J. [D-CA-35]	D · CA		Apr 12, 2019
Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8]	D · MA		May 9, 2019
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Jun 12, 2019
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9]	D · NJ		Sep 19, 2019
Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Oct 4, 2019
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Oct 4, 2019
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Oct 11, 2019
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Oct 16, 2019
Rep. Rice, Kathleen M. [D-NY-4]	D · NY		Oct 16, 2019
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Oct 22, 2019
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Oct 23, 2019
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Oct 29, 2019
Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [D-PA-18]	D · PA		Nov 1, 2019
Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3]	D · NY		Nov 14, 2019
Rep. Lamb, Conor [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Jan 28, 2020
Rep. Van Drew, Jefferson [R-NJ-2]	R · NJ		Feb 12, 2020
Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5]	D · NJ		Mar 10, 2020
Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]	D · CO		May 1, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 24, 2020
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Reported by	Mar 10, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 5928	Related bill	Feb 27, 2020: Subcommittee Hearings Held.
116 S 2748	Identical bill	Oct 30, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
116 HR 2165	Related bill	Apr 10, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Don't Break Up the T-Band Act of 2020

This bill repeals a provision requiring the reallocation of spectrum currently used by public safety entities and otherwise addresses 9–1–1 fees and charges collected for the purpose of supporting 9–1–1 services.

Specifically, the bill repeals the requirement for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to reallocate and auction the 470-512 MHz band (referred to as the *T-Band spectrum*). The T-Band spectrum is a frequency range currently utilized by public safety entities in certain urban areas.

The bill also requires the FCC to issue rules designating acceptable purposes and functions for the obligation or expenditure of 9–1–1 fees or charges. Such purposes and functions shall be limited to the support and implementation of 9–1–1 services and the operational expenses of public safety answering points (i.e., the points where emergency calls are routed), but a state or taxing jurisdiction may petition the FCC for a determination that other purposes or functions should be treated as acceptable purposes or functions.

In addition, the bill establishes the Ending 9–1–1 Fee Diversion Now Strike Force, to which the FCC must submit any evidence it obtains that a state or taxing jurisdiction is diverting 9–1–1 fees or charges. The strike force must (1) study how the federal government can end such diversion through a determination of the effectiveness of laws and other constraints, (2) consider whether criminal penalties should be implemented to prevent further diversion, and (3) determine the impacts of such diversion.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 24, 2020:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
- **Sep 23, 2020:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H4773-4774)
- **Sep 23, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 410 - 5 (Roll no. 201).
- **Sep 23, 2020:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 410 - 5 (Roll no. 201). (text: CR 9/21/2020 H4614-4615)
- **Sep 23, 2020:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 23, 2020:** The title of the measure was amended. Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 21, 2020:** Mr. McNerney moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Sep 21, 2020:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H4614-4616)
- **Sep 21, 2020:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 451.
- **Sep 21, 2020:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Sep 18, 2020:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Energy and Commerce. H. Rept. 116-521.
- **Sep 18, 2020:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 421.
- **Jul 15, 2020:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jul 15, 2020:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Mar 10, 2020:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 10, 2020:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by Voice Vote .
- **Feb 27, 2020:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Jan 25, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **Jan 10, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 10, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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