

HR 4856

READI Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Oct 24, 2019

Current Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

Latest Action: Subcommittee Hearings Held. (Feb 27, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4856>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. McNerney, Jerry [D-CA-9]

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]	R · FL		Oct 24, 2019
Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Oct 24, 2019
Rep. Olson, Pete [R-TX-22]	R · TX		Oct 24, 2019
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Nov 14, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Feb 27, 2020
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 14, 2019
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred To	Oct 24, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 6096	Related bill	Nov 18, 2020: Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 596.
116 S 2693	Identical bill	Sep 29, 2020: Held at the desk.
116 S 4049	Related bill	Aug 7, 2020: Held at the desk.

Reliable Emergency Alert Distribution Improvement Act of 2019 or READI Act

This bill modifies how citizens receive emergency alerts through wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems.

Specifically, the bill includes emergency alerts from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a type of alert that mobile subscribers may not block from their devices (currently, only alerts from the President may not be blocked). FEMA must develop and issue guidance for how state, tribal, and local governments can participate in the integrated public alert and warning system.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) must adopt regulations that encourage states to establish a State Emergency Communications Commission (SECC) and require each SECC to meet at least annually to review and update its Emergency Alert System Plan. The FCC must approve or disapprove the updated plan.

The FCC shall also (1) establish a system to receive from FEMA or state, tribal, or local governments reports of false alerts under the Emergency Alert System (EAS) or the Wireless EAS to record such false alerts and examine their causes; (2) modify the EAS to provide for repeating messages while an alert remains pending; and (3) examine the feasibility of updating the EAS to enable or improve alerts provided through the internet, including through audio and video streaming services.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 27, 2020:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Nov 14, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.
- **Oct 25, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **Oct 24, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Oct 24, 2019:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.