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Safe Connections Act of 2022

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jan 28, 2021

Current Status: Held at the desk.

Latest Action: Held at the desk. (Mar 24, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/120>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]

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

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jan 28, 2021
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		Jan 28, 2021
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Jan 28, 2021
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		Jan 28, 2021
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Feb 12, 2021
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		May 26, 2022
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		May 26, 2022
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		May 26, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 16, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 7132	Related bill	Dec 7, 2022: Became Public Law No: 117-223.

Safe Connections Act of 2022

This bill establishes requirements concerning access to communication services for survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and related harms.

At a survivor's request, a mobile service provider must separate from a shared mobile service contract the survivor's line (and the line of any individual in the survivor's care) from the abuser's line unless separation is operationally or technologically infeasible. A survivor requesting this must (1) verify through appropriate documentation that an individual under the contract committed or allegedly committed an act of domestic violence, trafficking, or a related criminal act against the survivor; and (2) assume financial responsibility for services after a line separation.

A provider may not charge fees or impose other requirements on such requests. Additionally, a provider must

- separate the line within two business days of receiving a request;
- allow requests to be made remotely (if feasible);
- meet conditions related to confidentiality of, disposal of, and other matters concerning communications about requests; and
- make information about the process for requests available through consumer-facing communications (e.g., websites).

The bill (1) provides liability protection for providers' acts or omissions undertaken to comply with such requests, and (2) requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to adopt rules for these requests.

Additionally, the FCC must (1) expand access to federally subsidized communication services for survivors facing financial hardship, and (2) evaluate this expanded access.

The FCC must also consider rules requiring communication service providers to omit from consumer-facing logs calls and texts to hotlines for domestic violence and similar issues while retaining internal records.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 24, 2022:** Received in the House.
- **Mar 24, 2022:** Held at the desk.
- **Mar 22, 2022:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Mar 17, 2022:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S1246-1248)
- **Mar 17, 2022:** The committee substitute withdrawn by Unanimous Consent.
- **Mar 17, 2022:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote.(text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S1257-1259)
- **Mar 17, 2022:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote. (text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S1257-1259)
- **Dec 16, 2021:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Cantwell with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Dec 16, 2021:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 193.
- **Apr 28, 2021:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jan 28, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 28, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.