

## S 163

### Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Science, Technology, Communications

**Introduced:** Feb 2, 2021

**Current Status:** By Senator Cantwell from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report. Re

**Latest Action:** By Senator Cantwell from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report.

Report No. 117-75. (Feb 15, 2022)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/163>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]

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

### Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Feb 2, 2021
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Feb 2, 2021
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Feb 2, 2021
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Feb 2, 2021
Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]	D · GA		Jul 20, 2021

### 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 1032	Identical bill	<b>Feb 12, 2021:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

## Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act

This bill establishes measures to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry.

Specifically, the bill requires the Federal Communications Commission to establish an interagency working group to develop recommendations for addressing these workforce needs.

In addition, the bill requires the Department of Labor to establish and issue guidance on how states can address the workforce needs and safety of the telecommunications industry. In particular, the guidance must address how a state workforce development board can (1) utilize federal resources available to meet telecommunications industry workforce needs; (2) promote and improve recruitment in qualified industry-led workforce development programs, including the Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program; and (3) ensure the safety of tower climbers and other members of the telecommunications workforce.

The Government Accountability Office must submit to Congress a report that estimates the number of skilled telecommunications workers that will be required to build and maintain (1) broadband infrastructure in rural areas, and (2) the 5G wireless infrastructure needed to support 5G wireless technology.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Feb 15, 2022:** By Senator Cantwell from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report. Report No. 117-75.
- **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. 194.
- **Apr 28, 2021:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Feb 2, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 2, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text: CR S250-251)