

S 2071

BRIDGE Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jun 15, 2021

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. (Jun 15, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2071>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Jun 15, 2021
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Jun 15, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 15, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Broadband Reform and Investment to Drive Growth in the Economy Act of 2021 or the BRIDGE Act

This bill establishes and provides funding for the Broadband Access Fund and makes other changes related to expanding access to broadband services.

Specifically, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration must use the funding to award grants to states, territories, and Indian tribes for deploying, increasing adoption of, and facilitating affordable access to broadband and promoting digital equity (i.e., the condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed to participate in the society and economy of the United States). Grantees must prioritize deployment of broadband in unserved areas (including high-cost areas) and activities in areas with poverty rates above the national average.

The bill also preempts state and local laws that prohibit a public telecommunications provider (e.g., a municipal broadband provider) from offering broadband or other telecommunication services or deploying a network or infrastructure necessary for such services.

Additionally, the Federal Communications Commission must report on improving its effectiveness in achieving universal service goals for broadband.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 15, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 15, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.