

HR 3654

ROBUST Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jun 1, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, f

Latest Action: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. (Jun 1, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3654>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Cawthorn, Madison [R-NC-11]

Party: Republican • State: NC • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Kelly, Trent [R-MS-1]	R · MS		Jun 1, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 1, 2021
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 1, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## **Rural Opportunities for Broadband in Underserved Settlements and Towns Act or the ROBUST Act**

This bill requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to determine whether spectrum usage rights under covered licenses are unutilized or underutilized in rural areas. A covered license is an FCC-issued license for the use of electromagnetic spectrum (1) whereby a licensee may use such spectrum for the provision of broadband service, and (2) that includes a rural area in any part of its geographic scope.

If the FCC determines that a licensee's spectrum usage rights are unutilized or underutilized in a rural area, it must recommend that the licensee lease the rights to other entities to provide broadband service in that area.

The bill also establishes prioritization and eligibility requirements for funding provided under the Department of Agriculture's Broadband ReConnect Program, which furnishes loans and grants for the costs of infrastructure needed to provide broadband service in rural areas.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jun 1, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 1, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **Jun 1, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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.