

S 4117

Spectrum Innovation Act of 2022

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Apr 28, 2022

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. (Apr 28, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4117>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]

Party: Democratic • State: NM • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Apr 28, 2022
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Aug 1, 2022
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Nov 28, 2022
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Dec 5, 2022
Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN]	R · IN		Dec 8, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 28, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 7624	Identical bill	Jul 28, 2022: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
117 HR 5378	Related bill	Sep 28, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Spectrum Innovation Act of 2021

This bill specifies a process for auctioning a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum between 3100 megahertz (MHz) and 3540 MHz for nonfederal use, shared federal and nonfederal use, or a combination of those uses. Most wireless technologies (e.g., mobile communication) rely on the electromagnetic spectrum to transmit signals.

Specifically, the Office of Management and Budget must transfer funding from the Spectrum Reallocation Fund to federal entities for planning related to the reallocation. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Executive Office of the President must oversee the planning.

Informed by the planning, the Department of Commerce must identify at least 200 MHz of spectrum for reallocation. In identifying the spectrum, Commerce must consult with the Department of Defense, the Office of National Science and Technology Policy, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC must (1) adopt rules authorizing the use of the identified spectrum in consultation with the NTIA, and (2) auction licenses for the identified spectrum within seven years of the bill's enactment.

Additionally, the President must modify or withdraw (subject to certain limits) current federal assignments of the identified spectrum to increase nonfederal use. The FCC must allow for opportunistic uses (i.e., allow devices to opportunistically identify and transmit on unused spectrum without infringing on the rights of the spectrum license holder) of a withdrawn or modified assignment. An allowed opportunistic use must cease after the auction if the use is inconsistent with the rights of the licensee that obtains its license through the auction.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 28, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
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