

## HR 4374

### Broadband Internet Connections for Rural America Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** Jul 9, 2021

**Current Status:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 466.

**Latest Action:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 466. (Dec 16, 2022)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4374>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Scott, David [D-GA-13]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** GA • **Chamber:** House

## Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Reported By	Aug 6, 2021
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 12, 2021

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

## Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## **Broadband Internet Connections for Rural America Act**

This bill reauthorizes through FY2029 and makes other changes to various programs of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) that support broadband internet expansion in rural areas.

Specifically, the bill reauthorizes and modifies a program that provides grants, loans, and loan guarantees for broadband expansion. Modifications include revising the criteria used to prioritize applications and projects and changing the name of the program to the ReConnect Rural Broadband Program. Further, the bill terminates on June 30, 2022, a separate USDA pilot program that supports broadband expansion in rural areas; any program funds that remain available after that date shall be used for the ReConnect Rural Broadband Program.

The bill also reauthorizes programs that support (1) rural broadband access, including for economically challenged communities, distance learning, and telehealth; (2) innovative technologies to decrease broadband deployment costs and increase broadband speeds; and (3) expansion of middle mile broadband infrastructure (i.e., connections between national and regional internet backbones and schools, businesses, residences, and other local connection sites).

Additionally, USDA must establish a system to disseminate information and technical assistance concerning its broadband expansion programs and may award grants to units of governments and other eligible entities to collect data about broadband availability (e.g., location of infrastructure, costs, and speeds).

## Actions Timeline

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- **Dec 16, 2022:** Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged.
- **Dec 16, 2022:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 466.
- **Dec 8, 2022:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Dec. 15, 2022.
- **Nov 14, 2022:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Dec. 8, 2022.
- **Sep 22, 2022:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Nov. 14, 2022.
- **Sep 9, 2022:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Sept. 22, 2022.
- **Jul 29, 2022:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Sept. 12, 2022.
- **Jul 15, 2022:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than July 29, 2022.
- **Jun 28, 2022:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than July 15, 2022.
- **May 24, 2022:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than June 28, 2022.
- **May 6, 2022:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than May 26, 2022.
- **Apr 29, 2022:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than May 6, 2022.
- **Mar 18, 2022:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than April 29, 2022.
- **Jan 21, 2022:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than March 18, 2022.
- **Dec 3, 2021:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Jan. 21, 2022.
- **Nov 18, 2021:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Dec. 3, 2021.
- **Nov 5, 2021:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Nov. 18, 2021.
- **Oct 28, 2021:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Nov. 5, 2021.
- **Sep 24, 2021:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Oct. 28, 2021.
- **Aug 6, 2021:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Agriculture. H. Rept. 117-113, Part I.
- **Aug 6, 2021:** House Committee on Energy and Commerce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Sept. 24, 2021.
- **Jul 14, 2021:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jul 14, 2021:** Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute by Voice Vote.
- **Jul 12, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **Jul 9, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 9, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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.