

S 5137

Rural Internet Improvement Act of 2022

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Nov 29, 2022

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Nov 29, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/5137>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		Nov 29, 2022
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Nov 29, 2022
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Nov 29, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 29, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Rural Internet Improvement Act of 2022

This bill merges the pilot ReConnect Loan and Grant Program with existing loans and grants provided by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to facilitate broadband access to rural areas that lack sufficient access to broadband. Unobligated amounts available for the pilot program must be transferred and made available, without further appropriations, to this merged program.

The bill specifies eligibility criteria and other requirements that apply to the merged program. For example, the bill limits funds from the merged program to projects in areas where at least 90% of the households lack sufficient access to broadband services, which is currently required under the pilot program.

Other changes in the bill address procedures for contesting the accuracy of broadband maps that are used to identify eligible areas. It also requires efforts to increase coordination concerning broadband initiatives between USDA, the Federal Communications Commission, and the National Telecommunications Information Administration.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 29, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 29, 2022:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.