

S 745

Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Mar 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. (Mar 15, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/745>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]

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

Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 15, 2021
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 15, 2021
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Mar 15, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 15, 2021
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Mar 15, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 15, 2021
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Mar 15, 2021
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 15, 2021
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 15, 2021
Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]	D · GA		Mar 15, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 15, 2021
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 15, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 24, 2021
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Apr 12, 2021
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		May 10, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jul 19, 2021
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 29, 2021
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Aug 2, 2021

Committee Activity

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

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 1848	Related bill	Jan 20, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States.
117 HR 3703	Related bill	Jun 7, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.
117 HR 1721	Related bill	May 21, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations.
117 HR 1631	Related bill	May 11, 2021: Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E501-502)
117 S 1460	Related bill	Apr 29, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
117 HR 1783	Related bill	Apr 28, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit.
117 S 979	Related bill	Mar 25, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
117 HR 1841	Related bill	Mar 12, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
117 S 724	Related bill	Mar 11, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
117 S 741	Related bill	Mar 11, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
117 HR 1672	Related bill	Mar 10, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
117 HR 1673	Related bill	Mar 10, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
117 HR 1700	Related bill	Mar 10, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
117 HR 1714	Related bill	Mar 10, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
117 HR 1555	Related bill	Mar 4, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
117 HR 1590	Related bill	Mar 4, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act

This bill reauthorizes through FY2026, revises, and establishes grants and activities to promote access to telecommunications services, including broadband internet.

The bill addresses digital equity and inclusion through grants and by requiring studies on barriers to adopting broadband services and related matters.

The bill addresses broadband affordability and access. It (1) reauthorizes and expands programs that subsidize or support broadband services for, among others, eligible households, schools, and minority communities; and (2) establishes a program for expanding broadband service for underserved areas and community support organizations (e.g., religious organizations). Additionally, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) must expand programs that verify an individual's eligibility for subsidized telecommunications services.

The bill addresses matters concerning broadband data. The FCC must (1) issue rules for collecting pricing data and labels for disclosing information about broadband plans to consumers, and (2) collaborate and share data with federal agencies and stakeholders.

The bill makes financing (e.g., low-interest loans) available to communities and public-private partnerships for broadband infrastructure investments and creates grants to establish or expand certain internet exchange facilities and submarine cable landing stations. Additionally, the Department of Transportation must require states to install conduits for broadband cables as part of certain highway projects. The bill also sets up a task force on nationwide dig once requirements (i.e., policies or practices to minimize excavations of highway rights-of-way when installing telecommunications infrastructure).

Further, the bill preempts state laws that prohibit certain telecommunications service providers (e.g., public providers) from providing high-speed broadband services.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 15, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
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