S 979

A bill to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 to authorize additional funds for the Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund, to provide grants to States and Tribal Entities to strengthen the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier, to provide for Federal coordination between the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier and the National Accuracy Clearinghouse, and for other purposes.

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications
Introduced: Mar 25, 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 25, 2021)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/979

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]
Party: Democratic • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (15 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]	D · GA		Mar 25, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 25, 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 1721	Identical bill	**May 21, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations.
117 HR 1783	Related bill	**Apr 28, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit.
117 S 745	Related bill	**Mar 15, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Summary (as of Mar 25, 2021)

This bill makes changes to facilitate data sharing between the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and programs that subsidize communication services to verify eligibility for applicable programs.

Specifically, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) must award grants to states and tribes for establishing or modifying connections between databases with information regarding benefit programs (e.g., SNAP) and the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier to verify eligibility for the Lifeline program (which subsidizes telephone and internet services for low-income individuals) and the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (which subsidizes broadband services for those who suffered income loss during the COVID-19 pandemic and other eligible households). The bill also reauthorizes through FY2026 the fund that supports the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program.

In addition, the FCC must establish an automated connection to share data between the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier and the National Accuracy Clearinghouse for SNAP. The FCC must coordinate with the Department of Agriculture to establish the connection.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 25, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 25, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

legilist.com

Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

legilist.com/learn

Developer API: Build Apps on Legislative Data

The LegiList API gives developers direct access to bills, votes, legislators, committees, and more. Start free with 1,000 requests per day — no credit card required. Upgrade to Pro when you need to scale.

legilist.com/api

Public data belongs to the public. — legilist.com