

S 130

Rural Internet Improvement Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jan 30, 2023

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (text: CR S148-150)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (text: CR S148-150) (Jan 30, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/130>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		Jan 30, 2023
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jan 30, 2023
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Jan 30, 2023
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Mar 28, 2023
Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO]	D · CO		May 3, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 30, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 3216	Identical bill	Jun 1, 2023: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development.

Rural Internet Improvement Act of 2023

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

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