

S 323

PLAN for Broadband Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jan 29, 2025

Current Status: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorab

Latest Action: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably. (Mar 12, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/323>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Jan 29, 2025
Sen. Welch, Peter [D-VT]	D · VT		Jan 29, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Markup By	Mar 12, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 S 866	Related bill	Mar 5, 2025: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (text: CR S1581)

Proper Leadership to Align Networks for Broadband Act or the PLAN for Broadband Act

This bill requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to develop and implement a national strategy to improve the coordination and management of federal broadband programs and agency consideration of applications to build or maintain broadband infrastructure on federal property.

The NTIA must also develop and publish for public comment a plan for the implementation of the national strategy. Among other requirements, the implementation plan must establish, for federal broadband programs that are not technologically neutral (i.e., programs that involve a preference for certain broadband technologies), a ceiling on the amount of funding that may be awarded to support the provision of broadband service to a single location.

The bill also requires executive branch agencies to identify and address factors that contribute to delays in their review of applications for easements, rights-of-way, or leases related to communications infrastructure projects on federal property. (Under current law, agencies are generally required to act on such applications within 270 days.) Agencies must also establish methods to alert employees when the agency is at risk of failing to meet the 270-day deadline with respect to a particular application.

Finally, the bill lowers the cost threshold for certain broadband infrastructure projects to qualify as *covered projects* under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act from \$200 million to \$5 million. Such projects qualify for expedited federal environmental review.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 12, 2025:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably.
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