

S 866

Accelerating Broadband Permits Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Mar 5, 2025

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (text: CR S1

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (text: CR S1581) (Mar 5, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/866>

Sponsor

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

Party: Republican • State: SD • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		Mar 5, 2025
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Mar 5, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 5, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 S 323	Related bill	Mar 12, 2025: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably.

Accelerating Broadband Permits Act

This bill makes specified changes to processes for federal review of certain communications and broadband infrastructure projects.

Specifically, the bill 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. (Under current law, executive branch agencies with control over buildings or property may grant such easements, rights-of-way, or leases to entities seeking to install, construct, modify, or maintain communications facilities. Generally, agencies must act on such applications within 270 days.)

Under the bill, agencies must develop controls to ensure accurate tracking of processing times for such applications and take action to address factors contributing to delays as they occur. 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. (These provisions were recommended by the Government Accountability Office in an April 2024 report to Congress entitled *Broadband Deployment: Agencies Should Take Steps to Better Meet Deadline for Processing Permits.*)

Separately, 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 5, 2025:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 5, 2025:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (text: CR S1581)
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