

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1171

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 in order to require the Federal Communications Commission to fulfill the sufficient universal service support requirements for high cost areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 22, 2001

Mr. DEAL of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 in order to require the Federal Communications Commission to fulfill the sufficient universal service support requirements for high cost areas, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Universal Service Sup-
5 port Act”.

1 **SEC. 2 REMOVAL OF IMPEDIMENTS TO SUFFICIENT SUP-**
2 **PORT MECHANISMS.**

3 Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 is
4 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “(m) REMOVAL OF IMPEDIMENTS TO SUFFICIENT
7 SUPPORT MECHANISMS.—

8 “(1) REMOVAL OF CAPS ON HIGH COST SUP-
9 PORT MECHANISMS.—The caps and limitations on
10 universal service support contained in sections
11 36.601(c), 36.621(4), and 54.305 of the Commis-
12 sion’s regulations (47 CFR 36.601, 36.621(4), and
13 54.305) shall cease to be effective on the date of en-
14 actment of the Universal Service Support Act. The
15 Commission shall not, on or after such date of en-
16 actment, enforce or reimpose caps or limitations on
17 support mechanisms for rural telephone companies,
18 or for any exchanges acquired by a rural telephone
19 company, based on fund size or other considerations
20 unrelated to the sufficiency of support to achieve the
21 purposes of this section.

22 “(2) HIGH COST SUPPORT AND NATIONWIDE
23 AVERAGE CALCULATIONS.—The Commission shall—

24 “(A) calculate that portion of the high cost
25 support mechanism attributable to loops that
26 have costs that are in excess of 115 percent of

1 the nationwide average under section 36.631 of
2 the Commission’s regulations (47 CFR 36.631)
3 as in effect on the date of enactment of the
4 Universal Service Support Act, and
5 “(B) calculate the nationwide average
6 unseparated loop cost for purposes of sections
7 36.621(a)(1)–(3) and 36.622 of those regula-
8 tions (47 CFR 36.621(a)(1)–(3) and 36.622) as
9 in effect on such date of enactment of such Act,
10 taking into account the elimination of caps and limi-
11 tations of support pursuant to paragraph (1) of this
12 subsection.”.

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