

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3919

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## AN ACT

To provide for a comprehensive nationwide inventory of  
existing broadband service, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Broadband Census of  
3 America Act of 2007”.

4 **SEC. 2. CENSUS OF BROADBAND SERVICE DEPLOYMENT.**

5 (a) DUTY TO COLLECT AND REPORT.—

6 (1) ANNUAL ASSESSMENT AND REPORT.—The  
7 Commission shall, on an annual basis, conduct an  
8 assessment and publish a report on the nature and  
9 deployment of, and subscription to, broadband serv-  
10 ice capability throughout the States.

11 (2) BANDWIDTH SERVICE TIERS.—The Com-  
12 mission shall designate bandwidth service tiers by  
13 identifying tiers of increasing data transmission  
14 speeds of broadband service capability that will pro-  
15 vide useful information about the nature and extent  
16 of deployment of broadband service capability. At a  
17 minimum, the tiers in the aggregate shall encompass  
18 all data transmission speeds deployed, and shall con-  
19 sist of multiple combinations of upstream and down-  
20 stream data transmission speeds. Each tier shall be  
21 designated, to the extent possible, to correspond to  
22 the ability to support qualitatively different applica-  
23 tions and services, which the Commission shall also  
24 identify.

25 (3) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—The Commis-  
26 sion shall collect, or provide for the collection of, in-

1 formation from all commercial and public providers  
2 of broadband service capability under its jurisdiction  
3 in each State. Such information shall include—

4 (A) for each area encompassed by a United  
5 States postal zip code of the 5 digit level—

6 (i) information concerning the types  
7 of technology used to provide broadband  
8 service capability in such area;

9 (ii) the tiers designated under para-  
10 graph (2) used to provide such capability  
11 in such area; and

12 (iii) the actual number of residential  
13 subscribers and the actual number of busi-  
14 ness subscribers in such area; and

15 (B) for each State, the actual number of  
16 residential subscribers and the actual number of  
17 business subscribers for each tier of service des-  
18 igned under paragraph (2).

19 (4) INFORMATION REPORTED.—In the annual  
20 report required by paragraph (1), the Commission  
21 shall provide to the public—

22 (A) for each area encompassed by a United  
23 States postal zip code of the 5 digit level—

1 (i) a list of the types of technology  
2 used to provide such capability in such  
3 area; and

4 (ii) the actual number of residential  
5 subscribers and the actual number of busi-  
6 ness subscribers to broadband service ca-  
7 pability in such area, each in the aggre-  
8 gate; and

9 (B) for each State, the actual number of  
10 residential subscribers and the actual number of  
11 business subscribers for each tier of service des-  
12 ignated under paragraph (2), each in the aggre-  
13 gate.

14 (b) EVOLUTION OF ASSESSMENT.—The Commission  
15 shall periodically review both the bandwidth service tiers  
16 and the types of technology utilized in its assessment  
17 under subsection (a) to take into account changes in tech-  
18 nology and marketplace conditions.

19 (c) INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON.—

20 (1) INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON.—As part of  
21 the assessment and report required by this section,  
22 the Commission shall include information comparing  
23 the extent of broadband service capability (including  
24 data transmission speeds and price for broadband  
25 service capability) in a total of 75 communities in at

1 least 25 countries abroad for each of the tiers des-  
2 ignated pursuant to subsection (a)(2).

3 (2) CONTENTS.—The Commission shall choose  
4 communities for the comparison under this sub-  
5 section in a manner that will offer, to the extent  
6 possible, communities of a population size, popu-  
7 lation density, topography, and demographic profile  
8 that are comparable to the population size, popu-  
9 lation density, topography, and demographic profile  
10 of various communities within the United States.  
11 The Commission shall include in the comparison  
12 under this subsection—

13 (A) a geographically diverse selection of  
14 countries; and

15 (B) communities including the capital cit-  
16 ies of such countries.

17 (3) SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES.—The  
18 Commission shall identify relevant similarities and  
19 differences in each community, including their mar-  
20 ket structures, the number of competitors, the num-  
21 ber of facilities-based providers, the types of tech-  
22 nologies deployed by such providers, the applications  
23 and services those technologies enable, and the regu-  
24 latory model under which broadband service capa-  
25 bility is provided.

1 (d) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Except for the  
2 information provided to the public by the Commission in  
3 its annual report pursuant to subsection (a)(4), nothing  
4 in this section shall reduce or remove any obligation the  
5 Commission has to protect proprietary information, nor  
6 shall this section be construed to compel the Commission  
7 to make publicly available any proprietary information.  
8 Any information collected by the Commission pursuant to  
9 subsection (a)(3) that reveals any competitively sensitive  
10 information of an individual provider of broadband service  
11 capability shall not be disclosed by the Commission under  
12 subsection (a)(4) or otherwise.

13 (e) REGULATIONS.—The Commission shall, within  
14 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, pro-  
15 mulgate regulations to implement this section.

16 (f) ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.—The Commission  
17 shall enforce this section as if such section was a part of  
18 the Communications Act of 1934. For the purpose of this  
19 section, any violations of this section, or any regulations  
20 promulgated under this section, shall be considered to be  
21 a violation of the Communications Act of 1934 or a regu-  
22 lation promulgated under that Act, respectively.

23 **SEC. 3. BROADBAND INVENTORY MAP.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—To provide a comprehensive  
25 nationwide inventory of existing broadband service capa-

1 bility and availability, the NTIA shall develop and main-  
2 tain a broadband inventory map of the United States that  
3 identifies and depicts the geographic extent to which  
4 broadband service capability is deployed and available  
5 from a commercial provider or public provider throughout  
6 each State.

7 (b) INFORMATION SHOWN.—The broadband inven-  
8 tory map developed and maintained pursuant to this sec-  
9 tion shall be capable of identifying and depicting, nation-  
10 wide, for each State, and for each county or parish of each  
11 State—

12 (1) each area encompassed by a United States  
13 postal zip code of 9 digit level, census tract level, or  
14 functional equivalent in which broadband service ca-  
15 pability is deployed at that time, including—

16 (A) each commercial or public provider of  
17 broadband service capability within such area;  
18 and

19 (B) subject to subsection (f)(5)—

20 (i) each type of technology used to  
21 provide broadband service capability within  
22 such area; and

23 (ii) which bandwidth service tiers des-  
24 ignated pursuant to section 2(a)(2) are

1 available within such area for each pro-  
2 vider of broadband service capability; and

3 (2) each area encompassed by a United States  
4 postal zip code of 9 digit level, census tract level, or  
5 functional equivalent in which broadband service ca-  
6 pability is not deployed at that time.

7 (c) DATA USE ENCOURAGED.—The NTIA shall—

8 (1) seek to overlay demographic data obtained  
9 from other sources in the Department of Commerce  
10 and elsewhere for use with such broadband inventory  
11 map; and

12 (2) make available such map, and the informa-  
13 tion on which it is based, to such other sources in  
14 the Department for demographic purposes, subject  
15 to section 7.

16 (d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY AND INTERACTIVITY.—

17 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment  
18 of this Act, the NTIA shall make the broadband inventory  
19 map developed and maintained pursuant to this section  
20 accessible by the public on a World Wide Web site of the  
21 NTIA in a form that is interactive and searchable.

22 (e) UPDATING.—The NTIA shall update the  
23 broadband inventory map developed and maintained pur-  
24 suant to this section to ensure that the information pro-



1 vided by the broadband inventory map is timely and accu-  
2 rate.

3 (f) OBTAINING INFORMATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The NTIA shall request and  
5 obtain such information as may be necessary to  
6 carry out this section from the following:

7 (A) Eligible entities under section 4.

8 (B) The Commission.

9 (C) Commercial and public providers of  
10 broadband service capability.

11 (2) PRIORITY OF INFORMATION REQUESTS.—If  
12 the NTIA has not otherwise obtained such informa-  
13 tion pursuant to paragraph (3), the NTIA shall—

14 (A) first request and try to obtain such in-  
15 formation from such eligible entities before re-  
16 questing and obtaining such information from  
17 the Commission; and

18 (B) only request such information from  
19 commercial and public providers of broadband  
20 service capability if such information cannot be  
21 obtained in a timely fashion from such eligible  
22 entities or the Commission.

23 (3) COMPATIBLE FORMAT.—Such entities or  
24 such providers may elect to provide the NTIA with  
25 the information necessary for displaying a statewide

1 map, provided that such map meets, at a minimum,  
2 the requirements of subsection (b) for that State  
3 and such information is in a format that NTIA is  
4 able to incorporate into the broadband inventory  
5 map required under this section. Nothing in this  
6 paragraph precludes such providers or any such en-  
7 tity, with agreement of the providers concerned,  
8 from providing to the NTIA, or using for its own  
9 purposes, more geographically-specific information  
10 than required by subsection (b).

11 (4) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING  
12 WIFI HOTSPOTS.—The NTIA shall also try to obtain  
13 accurate information from reliable publicly available  
14 sources about broadband service capability that is  
15 offered to the public but that is not provided by ei-  
16 ther a commercial provider or a public provider di-  
17 rectly to the public.

18 (5) OPT-OUT BY PROVIDERS.—Notwithstanding  
19 subsection (b)(1)(B), if a provider of broadband  
20 service capability requests that the map developed  
21 and maintained pursuant to this section shall not  
22 depict the information in clause (i) or (ii), or both,  
23 of such subsection for a particular area or areas, the  
24 NTIA shall comply with such request.

1 (g) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Except for the  
2 information provided to the public by the NTIA in sub-  
3 section (d), nothing in this section shall reduce or remove  
4 any obligation the NTIA has to protect proprietary infor-  
5 mation, nor shall this section be construed to compel the  
6 NTIA to make publicly available any proprietary informa-  
7 tion. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,  
8 any information obtained by NTIA pursuant to subsection  
9 (f) that reveals competitively sensitive information of an  
10 individual provider of broadband service capability shall  
11 not be disclosed by NTIA.

12 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO STATES FOR BROADBAND MAP DEVELOP-**  
13 **OPMENT.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The NTIA may, to the extent  
15 amounts are made available pursuant to section 10(b) for  
16 use under this section, make grants to an eligible entity  
17 to assist in providing the NTIA with information to facili-  
18 tate the development of the broadband inventory map re-  
19 quired under section 3.

20 (b) STATE ENTITY APPLICATION AND DESIGNA-  
21 TION.—An eligible entity in any State that seeks to obtain  
22 a grant under this section shall submit an application to  
23 the NTIA at such time, in such form, and containing such  
24 information and assurances as the NTIA may require.

1       (c) USE.—Amounts from a grant under this section  
2 may be used only for costs involved in developing and ob-  
3 taining information for the broadband inventory map re-  
4 quired under section 3.

5       (d) CONDITIONS.—

6           (1) INFORMATION SHARING.—As a condition of  
7 receipt of a grant under this section, the eligible en-  
8 tity shall agree to provide to the NTIA the informa-  
9 tion developed or obtained using such grant amounts  
10 and necessary for the broadband inventory map re-  
11 quired under section 3.

12           (2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—An eligible en-  
13 tity may not obtain a grant under this section to  
14 carry out the activities under this section unless  
15 such entity agrees to provide, from non-Federal  
16 funds, an amount equal to not less than 20 percent  
17 of the amount of the grant toward the costs of car-  
18 rying out such activities.

19       (e) GRANT CRITERIA.—The NTIA shall select an eli-  
20 gible entity to receive a grant under this section based  
21 upon criteria that shall include—

22           (1) whether such entity requesting a grant is  
23 organized on a statewide basis and prepared to de-  
24 velop information for use by NTIA on a timely basis;

1           (2) the need of such entity for financial sup-  
2           port, taking into account the financial support from  
3           State or other sources, to fulfill the objectives of this  
4           Act; and

5           (3) whether the denial of such entity's grant re-  
6           quest would—

7                   (A) result in the inability of such entity to  
8                   develop information on a timely or comprehen-  
9                   sive basis; and

10                   (B) result in a gap in the information for  
11                   that State or otherwise thwart the objectives of  
12                   this Act.

13           (f) REGULATIONS.—The NTIA shall issue such regu-  
14           lations as may be necessary to carry out the functions as-  
15           signed under this section.

16           (g) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For the purposes of this sec-  
17           tion, the term “eligible entity” for any State means—

18                   (1) an entity that is either—

19                           (A) an agency or instrumentality of that  
20                           State, or a municipality or other subdivision (or  
21                           agency or instrumentality of a municipality or  
22                           other subdivision) of that State; or

23                           (B) a nonprofit organization that is de-  
24                           scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Rev-  
25                           enue Code of 1986 and that is exempt from

1           taxation under section 501(a) of such Code;  
2           and

3           (2) the entity is the single eligible entity in such  
4           State that has been designated by the State to re-  
5           ceive a grant under this section.

6   **SEC. 5. GRANTS FOR DEMAND-SIDE BROADBAND SERVICE**  
7                           **IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENTS.**

8           (a) GRANT AUTHORITY.—From the amounts appro-  
9           priated under section 10(c), the NTIA shall establish a  
10          grant program to create and facilitate the work of local  
11          technology planning entities that represent a broad cross-  
12          section of their community, including representatives of  
13          business, telecommunications labor organizations, con-  
14          sumer organizations, elementary and secondary education,  
15          health care providers, libraries, higher education, commu-  
16          nity-based organizations, tribal organizations, and local  
17          government.

18          (b) STATE ENTITY APPLICATION AND DESIGNA-  
19          TION.—Each eligible planning entity in any State that  
20          seeks to obtain a grant under this section shall submit  
21          an application to the NTIA at such time, in such form,  
22          and containing such information and assurances as the  
23          NTIA may require. Such application shall contain a dem-  
24          onstration that—

25                 (1) the entity is an eligible planning entity; and

1 (2) the eligible planning entity—

2 (A) is the single eligible planning entity in  
3 such State that has been designated by the  
4 State for an exclusive geographic area within  
5 the State to receive a grant under this section;  
6 or

7 (B) is the single eligible planning entity  
8 that is designated by the governing body of an  
9 Indian tribe to receive a grant under this sec-  
10 tion.

11 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts from a grant under  
12 this section shall be used to assist an eligible planning en-  
13 tity to—

14 (1) assess the current use of broadband service  
15 capability across relevant community sectors;

16 (2) set goals for improving or maximizing such  
17 use within each sector;

18 (3) develop a plan for achieving the eligible  
19 planning entity's goals, with specific recommenda-  
20 tions for identifying and spurring demand for such  
21 capability;

22 (4) collaborate with providers of broadband  
23 service capability and other high technology compa-  
24 nies to encourage the deployment and use of

1 broadband service capability in unserved and under-  
2 served areas;

3 (5) identify local demand for broadband service  
4 capability and aggregate such demand;

5 (6) establish programs, but not acquire equip-  
6 ment or facilities, to improve computer ownership  
7 and Internet access for unserved and underserved  
8 populations; and

9 (7) facilitate the exchange of information re-  
10 garding the use and demand for broadband service  
11 capability between the public and private sectors.

12 (d) PROHIBITION.—Funds made available by a grant  
13 under this section shall not be used for the provision of  
14 broadband service capability or the acquisition of equip-  
15 ment or facilities for such capability, except that this pro-  
16 hibition shall not prohibit an eligible planning entity’s use  
17 of such funds to acquire broadband service capability or  
18 equipment or facilities for such capability for use by such  
19 entity in its own conduct of planning activities.

20 (e) REGULATIONS.—The NTLA shall issue such regu-  
21 lations as may be necessary to carry out the functions as-  
22 signed under this section.

23 (f) ELIGIBLE PLANNING ENTITY.—For the purposes  
24 of this section, the term “eligible planning entity” for any  
25 State means—



1           (1) an agency or instrumentality of that State,  
2           a municipality or other subdivision (or agency or in-  
3           strumentality of a municipality or other subdivision)  
4           of that State, or an Indian tribe; or

5           (2) a nonprofit organization that is described in  
6           section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
7           1986 and that is exempt from taxation under section  
8           501(a) of such Code.

9   **SEC. 6. CONSUMER SURVEY OF BROADBAND SERVICE CA-**  
10                           **PABILITY.**

11           (a) **AUTHORITY.**—For the purpose of evaluating, on  
12           a statistically significant basis, the national characteristics  
13           of the use of broadband service capability, the Commission  
14           shall conduct and make public periodic surveys of con-  
15           sumers in urban, suburban, and rural areas in the large  
16           business, small business, and residential consumer mar-  
17           kets to determine the following:

18           (1) The types of technology used to provide the  
19           broadband service capability to which consumers  
20           subscribe.

21           (2) The amounts consumers pay per month for  
22           such capability.

23           (3) The actual data transmission speeds of such  
24           capability.

1           (4) The types of applications and services con-  
2           sumers most frequently use in conjunction with such  
3           capability.

4           (5) For consumers who have declined to sub-  
5           scribe to broadband service capability, the reasons  
6           given by such consumers for declining such capa-  
7           bility.

8           (6) Other sources of broadband service capa-  
9           bility which consumers regularly use or on which  
10          they rely.

11          (7) Any other information the Commission  
12          deems appropriate for such purpose.

13          (b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Commission shall  
14          make publicly available the results of surveys conducted  
15          under this section at least once per year.

16 **SEC. 7. CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSUMER INFORMATION.**

17          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall, within 180  
18          days after the date of the enactment of this Act, promul-  
19          gate regulations—

20                (1) to protect the confidentiality of personal  
21                consumer information collected for the purposes of  
22                this Act;

23                (2) to require the Commission, the NTIA, and  
24                each other entity that collects or controls such infor-  
25                mation for the purposes of this Act (including any

1 eligible entity under section 4, eligible planning enti-  
2 ty designated under section 5(b)(2), and commercial  
3 and public provider of broadband service capability)  
4 to protect the confidentiality of such information;  
5 and

6 (3) to permit such information to be disclosed  
7 by such entities only to the extent consistent with  
8 the provisions and for the purposes of this Act, or  
9 with the prior express authorization of the consumer  
10 to whom it pertains.

11 (b) LIMITATION.—The regulations promulgated  
12 under subsection (a) shall not preclude the ability of any  
13 consumer or other person or entity to search, by individual  
14 street address, the broadband inventory map developed  
15 and maintained pursuant to section 3, or any of the indi-  
16 vidual State maps that may compose it.

17 **SEC. 8. STATE OR LOCAL AUTHORITY.**

18 Except as provided in section 7, nothing in this Act  
19 shall be construed to expand or limit the authority of  
20 States, Indian tribes, or units of local government to com-  
21 pel the collection of information.

22 **SEC. 9. SUNSET PROVISIONS.**

23 (a) BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INFORMATION &  
24 CONSUMER SURVEY.—Sections 2 and 6 shall cease to be

1 effective after the end of the 6-year period beginning on  
2 the date of the enactment of this Act.

3 (b) BROADBAND INVENTORY MAP.—Section 3 shall  
4 cease to be effective after the end of the 7-year period  
5 beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
8 priated to carry out sections 3 and 4 of this Act—

9 (1) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

10 (2) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

11 (3) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.

12 (b) BROADBAND MAP INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT  
13 GRANTS.—Of any amounts appropriated in each fiscal  
14 year pursuant to subsection (a), not less than \$15,000,000  
15 shall be available only for grants under section 4.

16 (c) LOCAL TECHNOLOGY PLANNING GRANTS.—In  
17 addition to the amount appropriated under subsection (a),  
18 there is authorized to be appropriated to make grants  
19 under section 5—

20 (1) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

21 (2) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

22 (3) \$125,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.

23 **SEC. 11. DEFINITIONS.**

24 For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions  
25 shall apply:

1           (1) BROADBAND SERVICE CAPABILITY.—The  
2 term “broadband service capability” means an Inter-  
3 net Protocol-based transmission service that is of-  
4 fered to end users to enable such end users to send  
5 and receive voice, video, data, graphics, or a com-  
6 bination, to or from the Internet without regard to  
7 any transmission media or technology.

8           (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”  
9 means the Federal Communications Commission.

10          (3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”  
11 has the meaning given in section 4(e) of the Indian  
12 Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act  
13 (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)).

14          (4) NTLA.—The term “NTLA” means the Na-  
15 tional Telecommunications and Information Admin-  
16 istration of the Department of Commerce.

17          (5) PERSONAL CONSUMER INFORMATION.—The  
18 term “personal consumer information”—

19               (A) means information that allows a  
20 human being to be identified individually;

21               (B) includes the following information with  
22 respect to an individual—

23                       (i) the first and last name;

24                       (ii) a home or physical address;

25                       (iii) a date or place of birth;

1 (iv) an email address or a telephone  
2 number;

3 (v) a Social Security account number,  
4 tax identification number, birth certificate  
5 number, passport number, driver's license  
6 number, or any other any government-  
7 issued identification number; or

8 (vi) a credit card number or bank ac-  
9 count or card number; and

10 (C) does not include any record of aggre-  
11 gate information that does not permit the iden-  
12 tification of particular individuals.

13 (6) PROVIDER.—

14 (A) PUBLIC PROVIDER.—The term “pub-  
15 lic” when used with respect to a provider of  
16 broadband service capability means a provider  
17 that is an agency or instrumentality of a State,  
18 or a municipality or other subdivision (or agen-  
19 cy or instrumentality of a municipality or other  
20 subdivision) of a State, regardless of the facili-  
21 ties used.

22 (B) COMMERCIAL PROVIDER.—The term  
23 “commercial” when used with respect to a pro-  
24 vider of broadband service capability means a  
25 provider that offers broadband service capa-

1           bility for a fee, or on an advertising-supported  
2           basis, directly to the public or to such classes  
3           of users as to be effectively available to the  
4           public, regardless of the facilities used.

5           (7) STATE.—The term “State” means the  
6           States of the United States, the District of Colum-  
7           bia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the  
8           Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Northern Mar-  
9           iana Islands, and any other territory and possession  
10          of the United States.

        Passed the House of Representatives November 13,  
2007.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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