

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3042

To provide for a study by the National Academy of Sciences on the technical policy decisions and technical personnel at the Federal Communications Commission.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 25, 2010

Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. KAUFMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To provide for a study by the National Academy of Sciences on the technical policy decisions and technical personnel at the Federal Communications Commission.

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. TECHNICAL POLICY AND PERSONNEL STUDY.**

4 (a) STUDY.—

5 (1) REQUIREMENT.—The Chairman of the Fed-
6 eral Communications Commission (hereafter in this
7 Act referred to as the “Commission”) shall enter
8 into an arrangement with the National Academy of
9 Sciences to complete a study of the technical policy

1 decisionmaking and the technical personnel at the
2 Commission.

3 (2) CONTENTS.—The study required under
4 paragraph (1) shall—

5 (A) review technical policy decision making
6 of the Commission, including if the Commission
7 has the adequate resources and processes in
8 place to properly evaluate and account for the
9 technical aspects and impact of the Commis-
10 sion’s regulatory rulemaking;

11 (B) review—

12 (i) the timeliness of the rulemaking
13 process utilized by the Commission; and

14 (ii) the impact of regulatory delay on
15 telecommunications innovation;

16 (C) based upon the review undertaken pur-
17 suant to subparagraph (B), make recommenda-
18 tions for the Commission to streamline its rule-
19 making process;

20 (D) evaluate the current staffing levels and
21 skill sets of technical personnel at the Commis-
22 sion to determine if such staffing levels and
23 skill sets are aligned with the current and fu-
24 ture needs of the Commission, as well as with

1 current and future issues that come or may
2 come under the jurisdiction of the Commission;

3 (E) examine the current technical staff
4 and engineering recruiting procedures at the
5 Commission and make recommendations on how
6 the Commission can improve its efforts to hire
7 and retain engineers and other technical staff
8 members;

9 (F) examine—

10 (i) the reliance of the Commission on
11 external contractors in the development of
12 policy and in evaluating the technical as-
13 pects of services, devices, and issues that
14 arise under the jurisdiction of the Commis-
15 sion; and

16 (ii) the potential costs and benefits of
17 the development of “in-house” resources to
18 perform the duties that are currently being
19 outsourced to external contractors; and

20 (G) compare the decisionmaking process of
21 the Commission with the decisionmaking proc-
22 ess used by similar regulatory authorities in
23 other industrialized countries, including the Eu-
24 ropean Union, Japan, Canada, Australia, and
25 the United Kingdom.

1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall trans-
3 mit a report describing the results of the study and rec-
4 ommendations required by subsection (a) to the Com-
5 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
6 Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
7 the House of Representatives.

8 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated to the Chairman of the
10 Commission for carrying out this section \$1,000,000 for
11 fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

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