

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3516

To encourage spectrum licensees to make unused spectrum available for use by rural and smaller carriers in order to expand wireless coverage.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2012

Ms. SNOWE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To encourage spectrum licensees to make unused spectrum available for use by rural and smaller carriers in order to expand wireless coverage.

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 “Rural Spectrum Acces-
5 sibility Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF LICENSES.**

7 Section 307 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
8 U.S.C. 307) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(g) EXTENSION OF LICENSES.—

1 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
2 section—

3 “(A) the term ‘rural area’ means any area
4 other than—

5 “(i) an area described in clause (i) or
6 (ii) of section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Con-
7 solidated Farm and Rural Development
8 Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)); and

9 “(ii) a city, town, or incorporated area
10 that has a population of greater than
11 20,000 inhabitants; and

12 “(B) the term ‘small carrier’ means a car-
13 rier with annual revenue less than
14 \$500,000,000 or that provides wireless service
15 to less than 1,500,000 customers.

16 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later
17 than 90 days after the date of enactment of Rural
18 Spectrum Accessibility Act of 2012, the Commission
19 shall establish a program under which a carrier that
20 receives a license under this section may partition or
21 disaggregate the license in order to make unused
22 spectrum available to small carriers or carriers serv-
23 ing a rural area.

24 “(3) EXTENSION OF LICENSE TERM.—Any car-
25 rier that receives a license under this section and

1 participates in the program established under para-
2 graph (2) shall receive a 3-year extension of the li-
3 cense granted under this section.”.

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