

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 588

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a study on network resiliency during times of emergency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 17, 2017

Mr. PALLONE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a study on network resiliency during times of emergency, 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 “Securing Access to
5 Networks in Disasters Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON NETWORK RESILIENCY.**

7 Not later than 36 months after the date of enactment
8 of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress, and

1 make publically available on the Commission’s website, a
2 study on the public safety benefits and technical feasibility
3 and cost of—

4 (1) making telecommunications service pro-
5 vider-owned WiFi access points, and other commu-
6 nications technologies operating on unlicensed spec-
7 trum, available to the general public for access to 9–
8 1–1 services, without requiring any login credentials,
9 during times of emergency when mobile service is
10 unavailable;

11 (2) the provision by non-telecommunications
12 service provider-owned WiFi access points of public
13 access to 9–1–1 services during times of emergency
14 when mobile service is unavailable; and

15 (3) other alternative means of providing the
16 public with access to 9–1–1 services during times of
17 emergency when mobile service is unavailable.

18 **SEC. 3. ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS DUR-**
19 **ING FEDERALLY DECLARED EMERGENCIES.**

20 Section 427(a)(1)(A) of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
21 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
22 5189e(a)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “telecommuni-
23 cations service” and inserting “wireline or mobile tele-
24 phone service, Internet access service, radio or television

1 broadcasting, cable service, or direct broadcast satellite
2 service”.

3 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

4 As used in this Act—

5 (1) the term “Commission” means the Federal
6 Communications Commission;

7 (2) the term “mobile service” means commer-
8 cial mobile service (as defined in section 332 of the
9 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332)) or
10 commercial mobile data service (as defined in section
11 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Cre-
12 ation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401));

13 (3) the term “WiFi access point” means wire-
14 less Internet access using the standard designated as
15 802.11 or any variant thereof; and

16 (4) the term “times of emergency” means ei-
17 ther an emergency as defined in section 102 of the
18 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
19 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122), or an emergency
20 as declared by the governor of a State or territory
21 of the United States.

○