

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1950

To require the Federal Communications Commission to submit to Congress a report on promoting broadband Internet access service for veterans.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 5, 2017

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Federal Communications Commission to submit to Congress a report on promoting broadband Internet access service for veterans.

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 “Improving Broadband
5 Access for Veterans Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON PROMOTING BROADBAND INTERNET**
7 **ACCESS SERVICE FOR VETERANS.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

1 (1) the term “broadband Internet access serv-
2 ice”—

3 (A) means a mass-market retail service by
4 wire or radio that provides the capability to
5 transmit data to and receive data from all or
6 substantially all Internet endpoints, including
7 any capabilities that are incidental to and en-
8 able the operation of the communications serv-
9 ice;

10 (B) does not include dial-up Internet ac-
11 cess service; and

12 (C) includes any service that the Commis-
13 sion finds to be providing a functional equiva-
14 lent of the service described in subparagraph
15 (A);

16 (2) the term “Commission” means the Federal
17 Communications Commission; and

18 (3) the term “veteran” has the meaning given
19 the term in section 101 of title 38, United States
20 Code.

21 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission
24 shall submit to Congress a report on promoting
25 broadband Internet access service for veterans, in

1 particular low-income veterans and veterans residing
2 in rural areas.

3 (2) CONTENTS.—In the report required under
4 paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

5 (A) examine broadband Internet access
6 service and how to promote broadband Internet
7 access service; and

8 (B) provide findings and recommendations
9 for Congress with respect to broadband Internet
10 access service and how to promote broadband
11 Internet access service.

12 (c) PUBLIC NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COM-
13 MENT.—In preparing the report required under subsection
14 (b), the Commission shall provide the public with notice
15 and an opportunity to comment on broadband Internet ac-
16 cess service for veterans, in particular low-income veterans
17 and veterans residing in rural areas, and how to promote
18 broadband Internet access service for such individuals.

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