

## Union Calendar No. 480

116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6096

**[Report No. 116-582, Part I]**

To improve oversight by the Federal Communications Commission of the wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2020

Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. OLSON, and Ms. GABBARD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Reported from the Committee on Energy and Commerce

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

# **A BILL**

To improve oversight by the Federal Communications Commission of the wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems.

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 “Reliable Emergency  
5 Alert Distribution Improvement Act of 2020” or the  
6 “READI Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8       In this Act—

9           (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-  
10        ministrator of the Federal Emergency Management  
11        Agency;

12           (2) the term “Commission” means the Federal  
13        Communications Commission;

14           (3) the term “Emergency Alert System” means  
15        the national public warning system, the rules for  
16        which are set forth in part 11 of title 47, Code of  
17        Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation);  
18        and

19           (4) the term “Wireless Emergency Alert Sys-  
20        tem” means the wireless national public warning  
21        system established under the Warning, Alert, and  
22        Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.), the  
23        rules for which are set forth in part 10 of title 47,  
24        Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regu-  
25        lation).

1 **SEC. 3. WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM OFFERINGS.**

2 (a) AMENDMENT.—Section 602(b)(2)(E) of the  
3 Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C.  
4 1201(b)(2)(E)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking the second and third sentences;

6 and

7 (2) by striking “other than an alert issued by  
8 the President.” and inserting the following: “other  
9 than an alert issued by—

10 “(i) the President; or

11 “(ii) the Administrator of the Federal  
12 Emergency Management Agency.”.

13 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after  
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall  
15 adopt regulations to implement the amendment made by  
16 subsection (a)(2).

17 **SEC. 4. STATE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLANS AND**  
18 **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMIT-**  
19 **TEES.**

20 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

21 (1) the term “SECC” means a State Emer-  
22 gency Communications Committee;

23 (2) the term “State” means any State of the  
24 United States, the District of Columbia, the Com-  
25 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin  
26 Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Common-

1 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any  
2 possession of the United States; and

3 (3) the term “State EAS Plan” means a State  
4 Emergency Alert System Plan as required in part 11  
5 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations.

6 (b) STATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COM-  
7 MITTEE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enact-  
8 ment of this Act, the Commission shall adopt regulations  
9 that—

10 (1) encourage the chief executive of each  
11 State—

12 (A) to establish an SECC if the State does  
13 not have an SECC; or

14 (B) if the State has an SECC, to review  
15 the composition and governance of the SECC;

16 (2) provide that—

17 (A) each SECC, not less frequently than  
18 annually, shall—

19 (i) meet to review and update its  
20 State EAS Plan;

21 (ii) certify to the Commission that the  
22 SECC has met as required under clause  
23 (i); and

24 (iii) submit to the Commission an up-  
25 dated State EAS Plan; and

1 (B) not later than 60 days after the date  
2 on which the Commission receives an updated  
3 State EAS Plan under subparagraph (A)(iii),  
4 the Commission shall—

5 (i) approve or disapprove the updated  
6 State EAS Plan; and

7 (ii) notify the chief executive of the  
8 State of the Commission’s findings; and

9 (3) establish a State EAS Plan content check-  
10 list for SECCs to use when reviewing and updating  
11 a State EAS Plan for submission to the Commission  
12 under paragraph (2)(A).

13 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Commission shall consult  
14 with the Administrator regarding the adoption of regula-  
15 tions under subsection (b)(3).

16 **SEC. 5. FALSE ALERT REPORTING.**

17 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment  
18 of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Ad-  
19 ministrator, shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to es-  
20 tablish a system to receive from the Administrator or  
21 State, Tribal, or local governments reports of false alerts  
22 under the Emergency Alert System or the Wireless Emer-  
23 gency Alert System for the purpose of recording such false  
24 alerts and examining their causes.

1 **SEC. 6. REPEATING EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM MES-**  
2 **SAGES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in con-  
5 sultation with the Administrator, shall complete a rule-  
6 making proceeding to modify the Emergency Alert System  
7 to provide for repeating Emergency Alert System mes-  
8 sages while an alert remains pending that is issued by—

9 (1) the President;

10 (2) the Administrator; or

11 (3) any other entity under specified circum-  
12 stances as determined by the Commission, in con-  
13 sultation with the Administrator.

14 (b) SCOPE OF RULEMAKING.—Subsection (a)—

15 (1) shall apply to warnings of national security  
16 events, meaning emergencies of national significance,  
17 such as a missile threat, terror attack, or other act  
18 of war; and

19 (2) shall not apply to more typical warnings,  
20 such as a weather alert, AMBER Alert, or disaster  
21 alert.

22 **SEC. 7. INTERNET AND ONLINE STREAMING SERVICES**  
23 **EMERGENCY ALERT EXAMINATION.**

24 (a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
25 of enactment of this Act, and after providing public notice  
26 and opportunity for comment, the Commission shall com-

1 plete an inquiry to examine the feasibility of updating the  
2 Emergency Alert System to enable or improve alerts to  
3 consumers provided through the internet, including  
4 through streaming services.

5 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after com-  
6 pleting the inquiry under subsection (a), the Commission  
7 shall submit a report on the findings and conclusions of  
8 the inquiry to—

9 (1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
10 Transportation of the Senate; and

11 (2) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of  
12 the House of Representatives.





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