

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7520

To require the Federal Communications Commission to update the national broadband plan, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2020

Ms. ESHOO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To require the Federal Communications Commission to update the national broadband plan, 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 “National Broadband  
5 Plan for the Future Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. UPDATE TO NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

8 (1) the term “appropriate committees of Con-  
9 gress” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
2 and Transportation of the Senate; and

3 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
4 merce of the House of Representatives;

5 (2) the term “broadband internet access serv-  
6 ice” has the meaning given the term in section 8.1  
7 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any suc-  
8 cessor regulation;

9 (3) the term “Commission” means the Federal  
10 Communications Commission;

11 (4) the term “COVID–19 pandemic” means the  
12 outbreak and associated public health, economic, and  
13 other societal effects of the Coronavirus Disease  
14 2019 (COVID–19) related to the emergency de-  
15 clared by the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
16 ices on January 31, 2020, under section 319 of the  
17 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d), and  
18 any renewals thereof and any subsequent declara-  
19 tions by the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
20 ices related to the coronavirus;

21 (5) the term “E-Rate program” means the pro-  
22 gram set forth under subpart F of part 54 of title  
23 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor  
24 regulations;

1           (6) the term “Lifeline” means the program set  
2           forth under subpart E of part 54 of title 47, Code  
3           of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulations;  
4           and

5           (7) the term “national broadband plan” means  
6           the plan required to be submitted by the Commis-  
7           sion to the appropriate committees of Congress  
8           under section 6001(k) of the American Recovery and  
9           Reinvestment Act of 2009 (47 U.S.C. 1305(k)).

10          (b) UPDATE.—

11           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 1, 2021,  
12           and subject to paragraph (3), the Commission shall,  
13           after notice and an opportunity for public comment,  
14           submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a  
15           final report containing an update to the national  
16           broadband plan.

17           (2) CONTENTS.—The update to the national  
18           broadband plan required under paragraph (1)  
19           shall—

20           (A) assess the progress of the United  
21           States in achieving the goals of the original na-  
22           tional broadband plan during the 10-year period  
23           preceding the date of enactment of this Act;

1 (B) reassess the areas of focus contained  
2 within the original national broadband plan, in-  
3 cluding through—

4 (i) an analysis of the most effective  
5 and efficient mechanisms for ensuring ac-  
6 cess to broadband internet access service  
7 by all people of the United States;

8 (ii) a detailed strategy for achieving—

9 (I) affordability of broadband  
10 internet access service (including  
11 through Lifeline); and

12 (II) maximum utilization of  
13 broadband internet access service, and  
14 the infrastructure with respect to that  
15 service, by the public;

16 (iii) an evaluation of the status of de-  
17 ployment of broadband internet access  
18 service, including the progress of projects  
19 supported by the grants made pursuant to  
20 section 6001 of the American Recovery  
21 and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (47 U.S.C.  
22 1305); and

23 (iv) a plan for use of broadband inter-  
24 net access service, and the infrastructure  
25 with respect to that service, in advancing

1 consumer welfare, civic participation, pub-  
2 lic safety and homeland security, commu-  
3 nity development, health care delivery, en-  
4 ergy independence and efficiency, edu-  
5 cation, worker training, private sector in-  
6 vestment, entrepreneurial activity, job cre-  
7 ation and economic growth, and other na-  
8 tional purposes;

9 (C) examine the effects of the COVID-19  
10 pandemic on how the people of the United  
11 States—

12 (i) learn, including—

13 (I) an analysis of the nature and  
14 extent of gaps between students who  
15 have access to broadband internet ac-  
16 cess service at home and students who  
17 do not have that access; and

18 (II) an identification of specific  
19 ways to close the gaps described in  
20 subclause (I), including through the  
21 E-Rate program and Lifeline;

22 (ii) work, including by developing de-  
23 tailed proposals that could make working  
24 from home more practical for workers and  
25 more productive for employers;

1 (iii) receive medical information and  
2 treatment, including by—

3 (I) reviewing the adequacy and  
4 effectiveness of telemedicine programs  
5 implemented at the Federal and State  
6 levels; and

7 (II) developing proposals for how  
8 the programs described in subclause  
9 (I) could be improved or expanded;  
10 and

11 (iv) participate in civic communica-  
12 tions, including by analyzing the effects  
13 that the COVID–19 pandemic and the in-  
14 frastructure with respect to broadband  
15 internet access service in the United States  
16 have had on—

17 (I) free expression and non-com-  
18 mercial speakers in the United States;  
19 and

20 (II) the availability of credible  
21 news and information, including pub-  
22 lic health information, with respect to  
23 that pandemic;

24 (D) analyze the change in reliance that the  
25 people of the United States will have on services

1 enabled by broadband internet access service as  
2 a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

3 (E) develop—

4 (i) short-term proposals to address the  
5 reliance described in subparagraph (D);  
6 and

7 (ii) a long-term plan to address any  
8 systemic privacy and security challenges  
9 associated with the use of services de-  
10 scribed in subparagraph (D).

11 (3) FINAL REPORT.—Until July 1, 2021, the  
12 appropriate committees of Congress shall accept  
13 from the Commission an updated version of a report  
14 previously submitted by the Commission under para-  
15 graph (1), without regard to whether the Commis-  
16 sion had—

17 (A) labeled the previously submitted  
18 version of the report as the final report; or

19 (B) otherwise indicated that the previously  
20 submitted version was the final version of the  
21 report.

22 (4) SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later  
23 than 1 year after the date on which the Commission  
24 submits the final report of the Commission required  
25 under this subsection, as determined in accordance

1 with paragraph (3), and annually thereafter, the  
2 Commission shall submit to the appropriate commit-  
3 tees of Congress a report on the progress of the  
4 Commission in achieving the goals of the national  
5 broadband plan, as updated under this subsection.

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