

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1485

To improve the collection and aggregation of fixed and mobile broadband internet access coverage data, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2019

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

A BILL

To improve the collection and aggregation of fixed and mobile broadband internet access coverage data, 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 “Map Improvement Act
5 of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administra-
2 tion” means the National Telecommunications and
3 Information Administration.

4 (2) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—
5 The term “broadband internet access service”—

6 (A) means mass-market retail service by
7 wire or radio that provides the capability to
8 transmit data to and receive data from all or
9 substantially all internet endpoints, including
10 any capabilities that are incidental to and en-
11 able the operation of the communications serv-
12 ice, but excluding dial-up internet access serv-
13 ice;

14 (B) includes any service that the Commis-
15 sion finds to be providing a functional equiva-
16 lent of the service described in subparagraph
17 (A) or that is used to evade the protections set
18 forth in part 8 of title 47, Code of Federal Reg-
19 ulations, or any successor thereto; and

20 (C) does not include dial-up internet access
21 service.

22 (3) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
23 means the Federal Communications Commission.

1 (4) END USER.—The term “end user” means
 2 any individual or entity that uses a broadband inter-
 3 net access service.

4 (5) FIXED BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS
 5 SERVICE.—The term “fixed broadband internet ac-
 6 cess service” means—

7 (A) a broadband internet access service
 8 that serves end users primarily at fixed
 9 endpoints using stationary equipment; and

10 (B) includes fixed wireless services, includ-
 11 ing fixed unlicensed wireless services, and fixed
 12 satellite services.

13 (6) GIS.—The term “GIS” means geographic
 14 information systems.

15 (7) MOBILE BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS
 16 SERVICE.—The term “mobile broadband internet ac-
 17 cess service” has the meaning given the term “com-
 18 mercial mobile service” in section 332(d)(1) of the
 19 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)(1)).

20 **SEC. 3. COLLECTION AND MAPPING OF FIXED AND MOBILE**
 21 **BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS COVERAGE.**

22 (a) STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGY RULE.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
 24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission,
 25 in coordination with the National Telecommuni-

1 cations and Information Administration, shall pro-
2 mulgate a final rule to establish a standardized
3 methodology for collecting and mapping accurate
4 fixed and mobile broadband internet access service
5 coverage data in the United States, which shall—

6 (A) ensure that coverage data for fixed
7 and mobile broadband internet access services
8 is collected in a standardized, consistent, and
9 robust manner;

10 (B) improve the validity and reliability of
11 coverage data;

12 (C) increase the efficiency of coverage data
13 collection;

14 (D) contain standard definitions for dif-
15 ferent speed tiers, such as the 2G, 3G, 4G, and
16 4G LTE tiers and the equivalent for fixed
17 broadband internet access service;

18 (E) ensure that the collection and valida-
19 tion process occurs on a regular basis; and

20 (F) establish a standardized ongoing vali-
21 dation process and public feedback mechanism
22 that will allow for consumers, State and local
23 officials, and carriers to submit data to the
24 Commission to verify coverage data from car-

1 riers and challenge any areas they feel are mis-
2 represented.

3 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In promulgating the
4 rule required under paragraph (1), the Commission
5 shall consider—

6 (A) coordinating with the United States
7 Postal Service, other Federal delivery fleet vehi-
8 cles, and the Bureau of the Census for assist-
9 ance with data collection and the feasibility of
10 using more granular address level data; and

11 (B) creating 1 centralized national map
12 with multiple layers, including a layer each for
13 fixed broadband internet access service and mo-
14 bile broadband internet access service, which
15 shall be used in determining eligibility for all
16 Federal broadband internet access grant, loan,
17 and subsidy programs.

18 (3) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—The Com-
19 mission shall establish an Office of Broadband Data
20 Collection and Mapping within the Commission to
21 serve as the central point of collection, aggregation,
22 and validation of data collected under the standard-
23 ized methodology established under this subsection.

24 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall es-
2 tablish a technical assistance program under which
3 the Administration shall provide grants to State and
4 local entities, such as regional planning organiza-
5 tions, to—

6 (A) assist with mapping and the develop-
7 ment of a GIS-based map of existing service-
8 ability for fixed and mobile broadband internet
9 access service; and

10 (B) assess current broadband internet ac-
11 cess service adoption rates and advertised
12 broadband internet access service pricing in the
13 community.

14 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds received under this
15 subsection—

16 (A) shall be used to participate in the
17 standardized ongoing validation process and
18 public feedback mechanism described in sub-
19 section (a)(1)(F); and

20 (B) may be used to purchase GIS software
21 and for technical assistance with that software.

22 (3) OTHER USES FOR GIS SOFTWARE.—A re-
23 gional planning organization may use GIS software
24 acquired using funds received under this subsection

- 1 for other purposes in addition to broadband internet
- 2 access service mapping.

