

Union Calendar No. 125

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1338

[Report No. 118–157]

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide authority for certain
licenses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2023

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington (for herself and Mr. PALLONE) introduced the
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

JULY 25, 2023

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 3, 2023]

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide authority for certain licenses, 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 “Satellite And Tele-*
5 *communications Streamlining Act” or the “SAT Stream-*
6 *lining Act”.*

7 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY REGARDING CERTAIN LICENSES.**

8 *(a) AMENDMENT.—Part I of title III of the Commu-*
9 *nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended*
10 *by adding at the end the following new section:*

11 **“SEC. 346. RADIOFREQUENCY LICENSING AUTHORITY RE-**
12 **GARDING CERTAIN OPERATIONS.**

13 “(a) RULES.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
15 *after the date of the enactment of this section, the*
16 *Commission shall issue rules to amend part 25 of title*
17 *47, Code of Federal Regulations, to establish—*

18 “(A) *for any license granted under sub-*
19 *section (b) or grant of market access granted*
20 *under subsection (c), specific, measurable, and*
21 *technology-neutral performance objectives for*
22 *space safety and orbital debris, in accordance*
23 *with paragraph (2);*

24 “(B) *for any license granted under para-*
25 *graph (1) or (2) of subsection (b), specific modi-*

1 *fications (or classes of modifications) to such a*
2 *license that warrant expedited treatment under*
3 *subparagraph (A) or (B) (as the case may be) of*
4 *subsection (g)(2);*

5 “*(C) for any license granted under sub-*
6 *section (b), grant of market access granted under*
7 *subsection (c), authorization granted under sub-*
8 *section (d), or covered authorization, the manner*
9 *in which the licensee, grantee, or entity shall no-*
10 *ify the Commission of a request to submit a*
11 *modification under subsection (g)(5);*

12 “*(D) for any request to modify a covered*
13 *authorization, the manner in which the entity*
14 *with the covered authorization shall indicate in*
15 *the request whether the entity is seeking a modi-*
16 *fication described in subsection (h)(2)(B)(i)(I) or*
17 *a modification described in subsection*
18 *(h)(2)(B)(i)(II);*

19 “*(E) for any license granted under sub-*
20 *section (b), grant of market access granted under*
21 *subsection (c), or covered authorization, in a*
22 *spectrum band with service rules that require a*
23 *licensee of such a license, a grantee of such a*
24 *grant, or an entity with such a covered author-*
25 *ization to share spectrum with another such li-*

1 *censee, grantee, or entity with a covered author-*
2 *ization that is authorized to use the same fre-*
3 *quencies of such spectrum, specific actions taken*
4 *by such a licensee, grantee, or entity with a cov-*
5 *ered authorization, or by any other entity that*
6 *is authorized to use such frequencies, that con-*
7 *stitute a failure to coordinate in good faith, in-*
8 *cluding whether withholding from another such*
9 *licensee, grantee, entity with a covered author-*
10 *ization, or other entity information necessary to*
11 *coordinate in good faith that it is technically*
12 *feasible to make available to such licensee, grant-*
13 *ee, entity with a covered authorization, or other*
14 *entity is such an action;*

15 “(F) for any license granted under sub-

16 *section (b)(1) or grant of market access granted*
17 *under subsection (c)(1), in a spectrum band with*
18 *service rules that require a licensee of such a li-*
19 *icense, a grantee of such a grant, or an entity*
20 *with a covered authorization to share spectrum*
21 *(except with respect to the use of a gateway sta-*
22 *tion) with another such licensee, grantee, or enti-*
23 *ty with a covered authorization that is author-*
24 *ized to use the same frequencies of such spectrum,*

1 *a quantifiable level of protection required under
2 subsection (h)(4);*

3 “(G) rules that—

4 “(i) clarify, for purposes of subsection
5 (h)(1)(A)(ii), the protection from harmful
6 interference that, during the covered period,
7 an entity with a covered authorization that
8 was approved in a processing round is re-
9 quired to provide to any other entity with
10 a covered authorization that was approved
11 in an earlier processing round; and

12 “(ii) seek to promote competition, in-
13 novation, and efficient use of spectrum by
14 entities with covered authorizations, includ-
15 ing by accounting for advancements in tech-
16 nology capable of managing interference
17 concerns to the greatest extent possible con-
18 sistent with clause (i); and

19 “(H) for any application or request for
20 modification described in subsection (n), what
21 constitutes reportable foreign ownership for pur-
22 poses of paragraph (1) of such subsection.

23 “(2) CONFLICT WITH INTERAGENCY STANDARD
24 PRACTICES.—In the rules issued pursuant to para-
25 graph (1)(A), or any successor rule, the Commission

1 *may not establish performance objectives that conflict*
2 *with any standard practice established in the Orbital*
3 *Debris Mitigation Standard Practices adopted by the*
4 *United States Government.*

5 “*(b) APPLICATION FOR LICENSE.—*

6 “*(1) NGSO DETERMINATION REQUIRED.—Except*
7 *as provided in paragraph (5) and subsection (m), not*
8 *later than 1 year after the date on which the Commis-*
9 *sion issues a public notice of the acceptance for filing*
10 *of a written application submitted to the Commission,*
11 *the Commission shall make a determination whether*
12 *to grant such application (including any amendment*
13 *to such application) for a license for covered*
14 *radiocommunication services using—*

15 “*(A) a nongeostationary orbit space station*
16 *or space stations;*

17 “*(B) a blanket-licensed earth station or*
18 *earth stations that will operate with a nongeo-*
19 *stationary orbit space station or space stations;*
20 *or*

21 “*(C) a nongeostationary orbit space station*
22 *or space stations and the blanket-licensed earth*
23 *station or earth stations that will operate with*
24 *the nongeostationary orbit space station or space*
25 *stations.*

1 “(2) *GSO DETERMINATION REQUIRED.*—Except
2 as provided in paragraph (5) and subsection (m), not
3 later than 1 year after the date on which the Commis-
4 sion issues a public notice of the acceptance for filing
5 of a written application submitted to the Commission,
6 the Commission shall make a determination whether
7 to grant such application (including any amendment
8 to such application) for a license for covered
9 radiocommunication services using—

10 “(A) a geostationary orbit space station or
11 space stations;

12 “(B) a blanket-licensed earth station or
13 earth stations that will operate with a geo-
14 stationary orbit space station or space stations;
15 or

16 “(C) a geostationary orbit space station or
17 space stations and the blanket-licensed earth sta-
18 tion or earth stations that will operate with the
19 geostationary orbit space station or space sta-
20 tions.

21 “(3) *CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.*—In addition
22 to the application requirements described in section
23 308(b), an application submitted under paragraph
24 (1) or (2) shall include the following:

1 “(A) Performance metrics with respect to
2 the frequencies and transmission power to be
3 used.

4 “(B) A demonstration of compliance by the
5 applicant with the performance objectives estab-
6 lished under subsection (a)(1)(A).

7 “(C) A description of compliance by the ap-
8 plicant with the actions established under sub-
9 section (a)(1)(E), if applicable.

10 “(D) In the case of an application sub-
11 mitted under paragraph (1), a demonstration of
12 compliance by the applicant with the quantifi-
13 able level of protection established under sub-
14 section (a)(1)(F), if applicable.

15 “(4) TERM OF INITIAL LICENSE.—The Commis-
16 sion shall grant a license for a term not to exceed 15
17 years for any application granted under this sub-
18 section.

19 “(5) EXCEPTIONS.—The deadline for the deter-
20 mination required in paragraphs (1), (2), and (6)
21 may be extended by the Commission for an applica-
22 tion subject to review under subsection (n).

23 “(6) TIMELY GRANT OF CERTAIN APPLICA-
24 TIONS.—

1 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Except as provided in
2 paragraph (5) and subsection (m), not later than
3 60 days after the date on which the Commission
4 issues a public notice of the acceptance for filing
5 of a written application submitted to the Com-
6 mission for a license described in paragraph (1)
7 with respect to which the applicant indicates in
8 the application that the application meets the
9 additional criteria described in subparagraph
10 (B), the Commission shall—

11 “(i) determine whether such applica-
12 tion (including any amendment to such ap-
13 plication) meets the additional criteria de-
14 scribed in subparagraph (B); and

15 “(ii) if the determination under clause
16 (i) is affirmative, grant such application
17 (including any amendment to such applica-
18 tion).

19 “(B) *CRITERIA DESCRIBED.*—The addi-
20 tional criteria described in this subparagraph
21 are as follows:

22 “(i) A limit on the number of space
23 stations authorized by the license, as deter-
24 mined by the Commission.

1 “(ii) A limit on the total in-orbit life-
2 time for any individual space station, as
3 determined by the Commission.

4 “(iii) For each space station, the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(I) A limit on the orbital alti-
7 tude at which the space station may
8 operate, as determined by the Commis-
9 sion.

10 “(II) A requirement that the space
11 station has a maneuverability capa-
12 bility and the ability to make collision
13 avoidance and deorbit maneuvers, as
14 determined by the Commission.

15 “(III) A requirement that the
16 space station is identifiable by a
17 unique signal-based telemetry marker
18 that meets requirements issued by the
19 Commission.

20 “(IV) A requirement that the
21 space station releases no operational
22 debris.

23 “(V) A requirement that the space
24 station can be commanded by com-
25 mand originating from the ground to

1 *immediately cease transmissions and*
2 *the applicant has the capability to*
3 *eliminate harmful interference when*
4 *required by the Commission.*

5 “(iv) *A requirement that the operator*
6 *has assessed and limited the probability of*
7 *an accidental explosion, including an explo-*
8 *sion that results from the conversion of en-*
9 *ergy sources on board any space station*
10 *into energy that fragments the space sta-*
11 *tion.*

12 “(v) *A limit on the probability of a*
13 *collision between each space station and*
14 *any other large object, as determined by the*
15 *Commission.*

16 “(vi) *A requirement that each space*
17 *station is disposed of post-mission and the*
18 *probability of human casualty from dis-*
19 *posal meets requirements issued by the*
20 *Commission.*

21 “(C) CRITERIA NOT MET.—*If the deter-*
22 *mination under subparagraph (A)(i) with re-*
23 *spect to an application is negative, the Commis-*
24 *sion shall make a determination whether to*
25 *grant such application (including any amend-*

1 *ment to such application) under paragraph (1)*
2 *by the deadline specified in such paragraph.*

3 “*(D) EVASION.*—*An application does not*
4 *meet the additional criteria described in sub-*
5 *paragraph (B) if the Commission determines*
6 *that, taken together with any other application*
7 *or applications submitted by the applicant under*
8 *subparagraph (A) (including an application that*
9 *has been approved), such applications are sub-*
10 *mitted with the purpose of evading a negative*
11 *determination with respect to such additional*
12 *criteria.*

13 “*(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—*For pur-*
14 *poses of this section (other than this paragraph),*
15 *any reference to an application submitted or*
16 *granted or a license granted under paragraph*
17 *(1) shall be construed to include an application*
18 *submitted or granted or a license granted (as the*
19 *case may be) under subparagraph (A).*

20 “*(F) IMPLEMENTATION.*—

21 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 18*
22 *months after the date of the enactment of*
23 *this section, the Commission shall—*

24 “(I) *issue rules to implement this*
25 *paragraph; or*

1 “(II) make the finding described
2 in clause (ii).

3 “(ii) *FINDING DESCRIBED.*—If the
4 Commission finds that the rules of the Com-
5 mission, as of the date of the enactment of
6 this section, satisfy the requirements in this
7 paragraph, the Commission shall issue a
8 public notice stating such finding.

9 “(c) *APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF MARKET ACCESS.*—

10 “(1) *NGSO DETERMINATION REQUIRED.*—After
11 the date on which the Commission issues a public no-
12 tice of the acceptance for filing of a written applica-
13 tion submitted to the Commission, the Commission
14 shall make a determination whether to grant such ap-
15 plication (including any amendment to such applica-
16 tion) for market access within the United States for
17 covered radiocommunication services using—

18 “(A) a nongeostationary orbit space station
19 or space stations;

20 “(B) a blanket-licensed earth station or
21 earth stations that will operate with a nongeo-
22 stationary orbit space station or space stations;
23 or

24 “(C) a nongeostationary orbit space station
25 or space stations and the blanket-licensed earth

1 *station or earth stations that will operate with*
2 *the nongeostationary orbit space station or space*
3 *stations.*

4 “(2) *GSO DETERMINATION REQUIRED.*—After
5 *the date on which the Commission issues a public no-*
6 *tice of the acceptance for filing of a written applica-*
7 *tion submitted to the Commission, the Commission*
8 *shall make a determination whether to grant such ap-*
9 *plication (including any amendment to such applica-*
10 *tion) for market access within the United States for*
11 *covered radiocommunication services using a geo-*
12 *stationary orbit space station or space stations.*

13 “(3) *CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.*—In addition
14 *to the application requirements described in section*
15 *308(b), an application submitted under paragraph*
16 *(1) or (2) shall include the following:*

17 “(A) *Performance metrics with respect to*
18 *the frequencies and transmission power to be*
19 *used.*

20 “(B) *A demonstration of compliance by the*
21 *applicant with the performance objectives estab-*
22 *lished under subsection (a)(1)(A).*

23 “(C) *A description of compliance by the ap-*
24 *plicant with the actions established under sub-*
25 *section (a)(1)(E), if applicable.*

1 “(D) In the case of an application sub-
2 mitted under paragraph (1), a demonstration of
3 compliance by the applicant with the quantifi-
4 able level of protection established under sub-
5 section (a)(1)(F), if applicable.

6 “(4) TERM OF INITIAL GRANT OF MARKET AC-
7 CESS.—The Commission shall grant a grant of mar-
8 ket access for a term not to exceed 15 years for any
9 application granted under this subsection.

10 “(d) EARTH STATION AUTHORIZATION.—

11 “(1) DETERMINATION REQUIRED FOR INDIVID-
12 UALLY LICENSED EARTH STATIONS.—Except as pro-
13 vided in paragraph (4) and subsection (m), not later
14 than 1 year after the date on which the Commission
15 issues a public notice of the acceptance for filing of
16 a written application submitted to the Commission,
17 the Commission shall make a determination whether
18 to grant such application (including any amendment
19 to such application) for authorization to use an indi-
20 vidually licensed earth station.

21 “(2) DETERMINATION REQUIRED FOR RECEIVE-
22 ONLY EARTH STATIONS.—Except as provided in para-
23 graph (4) and subsection (m), not later than 30 days
24 after the date on which the Commission issues a pub-
25 lic notice of the acceptance for filing of a written ap-

1 application submitted to the Commission, the Commis-
2 sion shall make a determination whether to grant
3 such application (including any amendment to such
4 application) for authorization to use an earth station
5 or earth stations to receive a signal from—

6 “(A) a nongeostationary orbit space station
7 or space stations operated under a license granted
8 under subsection (b)(1) or a grant of market
9 access granted under subsection (c)(1); or

10 “(B) a geostationary orbit space station or
11 space stations operated under a license granted
12 under subsection (b)(2) or a grant of market ac-
13 cess granted under subsection (c)(2).

14 “(3) DEEMED GRANTED.—If the Commission
15 fails to grant or deny a written application (includ-
16 ing any amendment to such application) submitted
17 under paragraph (1) or (2) by the deadline for the de-
18 termination required by such paragraph (including
19 any extension of such deadline under paragraph (4)
20 or subsection (m)), the application (including any
21 amendment to such application) shall be deemed
22 granted on the date on which the Commission receives
23 a written notice by the applicant of the failure.

24 “(4) EXCEPTION.—The deadline for the deter-
25 mination required by paragraph (1) or (2) may be

1 *extended by the Commission for an application sub-*
2 *ject to review under subsection (n).*

3 “(5) *INAPPLICABILITY TO BLANKET-LICENSED*
4 *EARTH STATIONS.*—*This subsection does not apply*
5 *with respect to an earth station or earth stations to*
6 *the extent that the earth station or earth stations will*
7 *be blanket-licensed with a space station or space sta-*
8 *tions as described in subsection (b)(1)(B), (b)(1)(C),*
9 *(b)(2)(B), (b)(2)(C), (c)(1)(B), or (c)(1)(C).*

10 “(e) *DETERMINATION OF PUBLIC INTEREST, CONVEN-*
11 *IENCE, AND NECESSITY.*—*The Commission may not make*
12 *a determination to grant an application, renewal, or modi-*
13 *fication under subsection (b), (c), (d), (f), or (g) (as the*
14 *case may be) unless—*

15 “(1) *except in the case of a modification under*
16 *subsection (g)(2), the Commission determines that the*
17 *license, grant, or authorization (as the case may be)*
18 *serves the public interest, convenience, and necessity;*
19 *and*

20 “(2) *the Commission determines that—*

21 “(A) *in the case of a licensee or grantee to*
22 *which subsection (h)(4) applies—*

23 “(i) *in the case of an application, ex-*
24 *cept in accordance with a coordination*
25 *agreement, the licensee or grantee will not,*

1 *during the term of the license or grant, ex-*
2 *ceed the quantifiable level of protection es-*
3 *tablished in subsection (h)(4) in operating*
4 *under the license or grant;*

5 “*(ii) in the case of a renewal, except in*
6 *accordance with a coordination agreement,*
7 *the licensee or grantee has not exceeded,*
8 *during the preceding term of the license or*
9 *grant, and will not exceed, during the term*
10 *of the renewal of the license or grant, the*
11 *quantifiable level of protection established*
12 *in subsection (h)(4) in operating under the*
13 *license or grant; and*

14 “*(iii) in the case of a modification, ex-*
15 *cept in accordance with a coordination*
16 *agreement, the licensee or grantee has not*
17 *exceeded, during the portion of the term of*
18 *the license or grant preceding the deter-*
19 *mination, and will not exceed, during the*
20 *remainder of such term, the quantifiable*
21 *level of protection established in subsection*
22 *(h)(4) in operating under the license or*
23 *grant; and*

24 “(B) in the case of a licensee or grantee that
25 is required to protect radio astronomy observ-

1 *atories by the International Telecommunication*
2 *Union, the application, request for renewal, or*
3 *request for modification demonstrates that the li-*
4 *censee or grantee will provide such protection in*
5 *operating under the license or grant.*

6 “(f) *RENEWAL OF LICENSE, GRANT OF MARKET AC-*
7 *CESS, OR AUTHORIZATION.—*

8 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sec-*
9 *tion 309(k)(2), the Commission shall grant a renewal*
10 *for a license granted under subsection (b), a grant of*
11 *market access granted under subsection (c), or an au-*
12 *thorization granted under subsection (d), upon re-*
13 *quest by the licensee, grantee, or entity with such au-*
14 *thorization (as the case may be), for a term not to ex-*
15 *ceed the length of the initial term beginning the day*
16 *after the date on which the preceding term of the li-*
17 *cense, grant of market access, or authorization ex-*
18 *pries, if the Commission determines the requirements*
19 *under subsection (e) and section 309(k) have been*
20 *met.*

21 “(2) *DEADLINE FOR DETERMINATION.—Except*
22 *as provided in subsection (m), not later than 180*
23 *days after the date on which the Commission receives*
24 *a request for renewal of a license granted under sub-*
25 *section (b), a grant of market access granted under*

1 *subsection (c), or an authorization granted under sub-*
2 *section (d), the Commission shall—*

3 “*(A) grant such request (including any*
4 *amendment to such request); or*

5 “*(B) make the determination described in*
6 *section 309(k)(3) and deny such request (includ-*
7 *ing any amendment to such request).*

8 “*(g) MODIFICATION OF LICENSE; GRANT OF MARKET*
9 *ACCESS.—*

10 “(1) *MAJOR MODIFICATIONS.—Except as pro-*
11 *vided in paragraphs (2), (3), (5), and (6) and sub-*
12 *section (m), and not later than 1 year after the date*
13 *on which the Commission receives a request to modify*
14 *a license granted under subsection (b)(1), the Com-*
15 *mission shall grant the request (including any*
16 *amendment to such request) if the Commission deter-*
17 *mines the modification meets the requirements under*
18 *subsection (e). Except as provided in paragraphs (2),*
19 *(3), and (5), the Commission may grant a request*
20 *(including any amendment to such request) to modify*
21 *a license granted under subsection (b)(2) or a grant*
22 *of market access granted under subsection (c) if the*
23 *Commission determines the modification meets the re-*
24 *quirements under subsection (e).*

1 “(2) EXPEDITED TREATMENT FOR MINOR MODI-
2 FICATIONS.—

3 “(A) NGSO LICENSE MODIFICATIONS.—*Ex-*
4 *cept as provided in paragraphs (3), (5), and (6)*
5 *and subsection (m), and not later than 90 days*
6 *after the date on which the Commission receives*
7 *a request to modify a license granted under sub-*
8 *section (b)(1), the Commission shall grant the re-*
9 *quest (including any amendment to such request)*
10 *if—*

11 “(i) the Commission determines that
12 *the modification or modifications meet the*
13 *requirements (if applicable) under subpara-*
14 *graphs (A) and (B) of subsection (e)(2); and*

15 “(ii) the request is limited only to
16 *modifications, or a class of modifications,*
17 *that—*

18 “(I) increase transmission capac-
19 *ity;*

20 “(II) improve spectral efficiency,
21 *such as by improving compression*
22 *technologies;*

23 “(III) improve the orbital vari-
24 *ance efficiency of the space station (or*
25 *space stations, considered collectively,*

1 *if there is more than one such space*
2 *station) authorized by the license; or*
3 “*(IV) otherwise do not substan-*
4 *tially modify the space station (or*
5 *space stations, considered collectively,*
6 *if there is more than one such space*
7 *station) authorized by the license.*

8 “(B) *GSO LICENSE MODIFICATIONS.—Ex-*
9 *cept as provided in paragraphs (3), (5), and (6)*
10 *and subsection (m), and not later than 90 days*
11 *after the date on which the Commission receives*
12 *a request to modify a license granted under sub-*
13 *section (b)(2), the Commission shall grant the re-*
14 *quest (including any amendment to such request)*
15 *if—*

16 “(i) *the Commission determines that*
17 *the modification or modifications meet the*
18 *requirements (if applicable) under sub-*
19 *section (e)(2)(B); and*

20 “(ii) *the request is limited only to*
21 *modifications, or a class of modifications,*
22 *that—*

23 “(I) *increase transmission capac-*
24 *ity;*

1 “(II) improve spectral efficiency,
2 such as by improving compression
3 technologies; or

4 “(III) otherwise do not substan-
5 tially modify the space station (or
6 space stations, considered collectively,
7 if there is more than one such space
8 station) authorized by the license.

9 “(C) DEEMED GRANTED.—If the Commis-
10 sion fails to grant a request (including any
11 amendment to such request) made by a licensee
12 under subparagraph (A) or (B) by the deadline
13 specified in such subparagraph (including any
14 extension of such deadline under paragraph (6)
15 or subsection (m)), the request (including any
16 amendment to such request) shall be deemed
17 granted on the date on which the Commission re-
18 ceives a written notice by the licensee of the fail-
19 ure.

20 “(3) EMERGENCY GRANT, RENEWAL, OR MODI-
21 FICATION.—If the Commission finds that there are ex-
22 traordinary circumstances requiring temporary oper-
23 ations in the public interest and that delay in the in-
24 stitution of such temporary operations would seri-
25 ously prejudice the public interest, the Commission—

1 “(A) may grant a license described in sub-
2 section (b), a grant of market access described in
3 subsection (c), or an authorization described in
4 subsection (d), a modification of such a license,
5 grant of market access, or authorization, or re-
6 newal of such a license, grant of market access,
7 or authorization for a period not to exceed 180
8 days in a manner and upon the terms the Com-
9 mission shall by rule prescribe in the case of an
10 emergency found by the Commission involving—
11 “(i) danger to life or property; or
12 “(ii) an action that is necessary for the
13 national defense or security of the United
14 States;
15 “(B) shall include with a grant made under
16 this paragraph a statement of the reasons of the
17 Commission for making such grant;
18 “(C) may extend a grant made under this
19 paragraph for periods not to exceed 180 days;
20 and
21 “(D) shall give expeditious treatment to any
22 timely filed petition to deny such application
23 and to any petition for rehearing of such grant
24 filed under section 405.

1 “(4) *EXCLUSION.*—Paragraph (2) shall not
2 *apply to a request to modify a license for—*

3 “(A) *the addition of an ancillary terrestrial*
4 *component; or*

5 “(B) *modifying the service offered under the*
6 *initial license granted under subsection (b) be-*
7 *tween fixed satellite service and mobile satellite*
8 *service.*

9 “(5) *AUTOMATIC GRANT OF CERTAIN MODIFICA-*
10 *TIONS.*—Upon notification to the Commission, the
11 *Commission may automatically grant a request to*
12 *modify a license granted under subsection (b), a grant*
13 *of market access granted under subsection (c), an au-*
14 *thorization granted under subsection (d), or a covered*
15 *authorization, to replace—*

16 “(A) *one space station (or component of*
17 *such space station) with a technically similar*
18 *space station (or component of such space sta-*
19 *tion) previously approved by the Commission; or*

20 “(B) *one earth station (or component of*
21 *such earth station) with a technically similar*
22 *earth station (or component of such earth sta-*
23 *tion) previously approved by the Commission.*

24 “(6) *EXCEPTIONS.*—The deadlines under para-

25 *graphs (1) and (2) may be extended by the Commis-*

1 sion for a request subject to review under subsection
2 (n).

3 “(h) SHARED SPECTRUM; PROTECTION FROM HARM-
4 FUL INTERFERENCE.—

5 “(1) GRANDFATHERED TREATMENT AND SUNSET
6 OF CERTAIN AUTHORIZATIONS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For the duration of the
8 covered period—

9 “(i) a covered authorization shall not
10 be treated as being granted under subsection
11 (b)(1) or subsection (c)(1) (as the case may
12 be); and

13 “(ii) an entity with a covered author-
14 ization shall be afforded, and shall afford to
15 any other entity with a covered authoriza-
16 tion, protection from harmful interference
17 that is consistent with the terms of such
18 protection afforded before the date of the en-
19 actment of this section.

20 “(B) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN APPLICA-
21 TIONS.—The Commission shall dismiss without
22 prejudice any application for a license or grant
23 of market access to operate a system described in
24 subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of subsection
25 (b)(1) or subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of sub-

1 *section (c)(1) that is submitted to the Commis-*
2 *sion after the date of the enactment of this sec-*
3 *tion and before the date on which the rules issued*
4 *pursuant to subsection (a) take effect.*

5 “(2) *TRANSITIONAL RULES.*—

6 “(A) *RENEWAL UNDER THIS SECTION.*—*An*
7 *entity with a covered authorization may, at any*
8 *time before the end of the covered period, seek re-*
9 *newal of the covered authorization under sub-*
10 *section (f) as if the covered authorization were a*
11 *license granted under subsection (b)(1) or a*
12 *grant of market access granted under subsection*
13 *(c)(1) (as the case may be). If the Commission*
14 *grants the renewal, the renewal shall be treated*
15 *as a renewal of a license granted under sub-*
16 *section (b)(1) or a grant of market access grant-*
17 *ed under subsection (c)(1) (as the case may be).*

18 “(B) *MODIFICATION.*—

19 “(i) *INDICATION OF TYPE OF MODI-*
20 *FICATION SOUGHT.*—*If an entity with a*
21 *covered authorization submits to the Com-*
22 *mmission a request to modify the covered au-*
23 *thorization, the entity shall indicate in the*
24 *request whether the entity is seeking—*

1 “(I) a modification of the covered
2 authorization under the law and regu-
3 lations applicable to the covered au-
4 thorization; or

5 “(II) a modification of the covered
6 authorization under subsection (g) as
7 if the covered authorization were a li-
8 cense granted under subsection (b)(1)
9 or a grant of market access granted
10 under subsection (c)(1) (as the case
11 may be).

12 “(ii) TREATMENT.—If the Commission
13 grants a request to modify a covered author-
14 ization—

15 “(I) in the case of a request for a
16 modification described in clause (i)(I),
17 the covered authorization as modified
18 shall continue to be treated as de-
19 scribed in paragraph (1)(A)(i) and the
20 entity with the covered authorization
21 shall, with respect to the covered au-
22 thorization, continue to be afforded,
23 and to afford to any other entity with
24 a covered authorization, the protection
25 described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii); and

1 “(II) in the case of a request for
2 a modification described in clause
3 (i)(II), the covered authorization as
4 modified shall be treated as a license
5 granted under subsection (b)(1) or a
6 grant of market access granted under
7 subsection (c)(1) (as the case may be)
8 with respect to which a request to mod-
9 ify has been granted under subsection
10 (g).

11 “(3) GOOD FAITH COORDINATION OF SHARED
12 SPECTRUM.—Not later than the date on which the
13 rules issued pursuant to subsection (a) take effect—

14 “(A) a licensee of a license granted under
15 subsection (b), a grantee of a grant of market ac-
16 cess granted under subsection (c), or an entity
17 with a covered authorization, in a spectrum
18 band with service rules that require such a li-
19 censee, grantee, or entity with a covered auth-
20 orization to share spectrum with another such li-
21 censee, grantee, or entity with a covered auth-
22 orization that is authorized to use the same fre-
23 quencies of such spectrum, shall make a good
24 faith effort to coordinate the use of such fre-
25 quencies (including the use of such frequencies by

1 *an individually licensed earth station) with any
2 other such licensee, grantee, or entity with a cov-
3 ered authorization and any other entity that is
4 authorized to use such frequencies; and*

5 *“(B) any other entity that is authorized to
6 use such frequencies shall make a good faith ef-
7 fort to coordinate the use of such frequencies with
8 any such licensee, grantee, or entity with a cov-
9 ered authorization.*

10 *“(4) PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL INTER-
11 FERENCE.—*

12 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date
13 on which the rules issued pursuant to subsection
14 (a) take effect, for any spectrum band in which
15 the Commission grants a license under subsection
16 (b)(1) or a grant of market access under sub-
17 section (c)(1) and for which the service rules re-
18 quire such a licensee or grantee or an entity with
19 a covered authorization to share spectrum (ex-
20 cept with respect to the use of a gateway station)
21 with another such licensee, grantee, or entity
22 with a covered authorization that is authorized
23 to use the same frequencies of such spectrum, the
24 Commission shall establish a quantifiable level of
25 protection that (except with respect to the use of*

1 *a gateway station) such a licensee or grantee*
2 *shall afford to any other entity (including an en-*
3 *tity with a covered authorization but not includ-*
4 *ing a licensee of a license granted under sub-*
5 *section (b)(2) or a grantee of a grant of market*
6 *access granted under subsection (c)(2)) that is*
7 *authorized to use such frequencies.*

8 “(B) *EXCEPTIONS.—Subparagraph (A)*
9 *shall not apply with respect to—*

10 “(i) *the spectrum between the fre-*
11 *quencies of 1617.775 megahertz and*
12 *1618.725 megahertz, inclusive; or*
13 “(ii) *any spectrum band allocated for*
14 *the earth exploration satellite service.*

15 “(5) *CONSIDERATION REQUIRED.—When estab-*
16 *lishing the quantifiable level of protection described in*
17 *paragraph (4), the Commission shall, with respect to*
18 *the entities to which the quantifiable level of protec-*
19 *tion is required under such paragraph to be af-*
20 *firmed—*

21 “(A) *consider protection of such entities*
22 *based on a degraded throughput methodology, re-*
23 *quiring that, except in accordance with a coordi-*
24 *nation agreement, a licensee of a license granted*
25 *under subsection (b)(1) or a grantee of a grant*

1 *of market access granted under subsection (c)(1)*
2 *may cause no more than a certain percentage in-*
3 *crease in the link unavailability of such an enti-*
4 *ty and may reduce the throughput of such an en-*
5 *tity by no more than a certain percentage;*

6 “*(B) consider protection of such entities*
7 *from interference beyond a permissible inter-*
8 *ference-to-noise ratio, or whether interference-to-*
9 *noise alone provides a sufficient level of protec-*
10 *tion; and*

11 “*(C) consider protection of such entities*
12 *from harmful interference by awarding a greater*
13 *share of spectrum during in-line events to ear-*
14 *lier-filed systems.*

15 “(6) *RELATION TO ITU RADIO REGULATIONS.*—
16 *Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to re-*
17 *quire the Commission to adopt rules regarding the use*
18 *of spectrum that contravene a requirement of the*
19 *radio regulations of the International Telecommuni-*
20 *cation Union.*

21 “(7) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—*An entity with*
22 *a covered authorization shall not be required to sub-*
23 *mit additional information in order to retain such*
24 *authorization, nor shall paragraph (1)(A) affect any*

1 *obligation of such entity under applicable law or reg-*
2 *ulation until the end of the covered period.*

3 “(i) *STATE PREEMPTION OF MARKET ENTRY;*
4 *RATES.*—*Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no*
5 *State or local government shall have any authority to regu-*
6 *late the entry of or the rates charged by an applicant or*
7 *licensee related to a license granted under subsection (b),*
8 *an applicant or grantee related to a grant of market access*
9 *granted under subsection (c), or an applicant or entity re-*
10 *lated to an authorization granted under subsection (d), ex-*
11 *cept that this subsection shall not prohibit a State from reg-*
12 *ulating the other terms and conditions of such a licensee,*
13 *grantee, or entity.*

14 “(j) *REGULATORY RESTRAINT.*—

15 “(1) *LIMITATION ON INFORMATION REQUIRED TO*
16 *BE PROVIDED.*—*In performing any act, making any*
17 *rule or regulation, or issuing any order necessary to*
18 *carry out this section, the Commission—*

19 “(A) *shall limit the information required to*
20 *be furnished to the Commission;*

21 “(B) *shall demonstrate the Commission has*
22 *taken every reasonable step to limit the informa-*
23 *tion required to be furnished to the Commission;*

24 “(C) *may not require, with respect to an*
25 *application under subsection (b), (c), or (d), a*

1 *request for renewal under subsection (f), or a re-*
2 *quest for modification under subsection (g), the*
3 *filing of any information which previously has*
4 *been furnished to the Commission or which is*
5 *not directly material to the considerations that*
6 *affect the granting or denial of such application*
7 *or request (but the Commission may require any*
8 *new or additional facts the Commission deems*
9 *necessary to make its findings); and*

10 “(D) *may not request additional informa-*
11 *tion regarding the performance objectives estab-*
12 *lished under subsection (a)(1)(A) for any case in*
13 *which an applicant has demonstrated compli-*
14 *ance with such performance objectives.*

15 “(2) *DEADLINE FOR PETITION DETERMINA-*
16 *TION.—If an applicant for a license or a licensee*
17 *under subsection (b) files a petition under part 1 of*
18 *title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any suc-*
19 *cessor regulation) relating to information required to*
20 *be furnished to the Commission under this section, the*
21 *Commission shall grant or deny the petition within*
22 *90 days after the date on which the petition is filed.*

23 “(k) *RELATION TO EXPERIMENTAL AND AMATEUR*
24 *USES.—This section shall not apply to any Commission*
25 *authorization in—*

1 “(1) *the experimental radio service; or*
2 “(2) *the amateur radio service.*

3 “(l) *COMPLETENESS.—*

4 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 20 business*
5 *days after receiving a written application submitted*
6 *under subsection (b), (c), or (d), the Commission*
7 *shall—*

8 “(A) *determine whether—*

9 “(i) *such application contains—*

10 “(I) *in the case of an application*
11 *submitted under subsection (b), all of*
12 *the information required to be sub-*
13 *mitted with the application under sub-*
14 *section (b)(3) and the first sentence of*
15 *section 308(b);*

16 “(II) *in the case of an application*
17 *submitted under subsection (c), all of*
18 *the information required to be sub-*
19 *mitted with the application under sub-*
20 *section (c)(3) and the first sentence of*
21 *section 308(b); or*

22 “(III) *in the case of an applica-*
23 *tion submitted under subsection (d), all*
24 *of the information required to be sub-*

3 “(ii) the applicant has paid the fee (if
4 any) required under section 8 in connection
5 with the application; and

6 “(B) either—

7 “(i) if both determinations under sub-
8 paragraph (A) are in the affirmative, issue
9 a public notice of the acceptance for filing
10 of such application; or

“(ii) if either determination under sub-
paragraph (A) is in the negative, provide
notice to the applicant of the negative deter-
mination, including what information that
was required to be submitted was not sub-
mitted or the amount of the application fee
due, or both (as the case may be).

“(2) *INACTION BY COMMISSION*.—If the Commission does not comply with paragraph (1) with respect to an application by the deadline specified in such paragraph, the Commission shall be deemed for purposes of subsection (b), (c), or (d) (as the case may be) to have issued a public notice of the acceptance for filing of such application on the date that is 21 busi-

1 ness days after the date on which such application
2 was received.

3 “(3) *LIMITATION*.—In making a determination
4 under paragraph (1)(A)(i), the Commission may only
5 consider whether the application contains the infor-
6 mation described in subclause (I), (II), or (III) (as
7 the case may be) of such paragraph and may not con-
8 sider whether the information is sufficient to allow
9 the Commission to grant or deny the application.

10 “(m) *TOLLING*.—

11 “(1) *IN GENERAL*.—Except as provided in sub-
12 sections (b)(5), (d)(4), and (g)(6), with respect to an
13 application for a license under subsection (b) or an
14 authorization under subsection (d), or a request for
15 renewal under subsection (f) or modification under
16 subsection (g) of a license granted under subsection
17 (b), a grant of market access granted under subsection
18 (c), or an authorization granted under subsection (d),
19 the Commission may extend the deadline under sub-
20 section (b), (d), (f), or (g) (as the case may be) for
21 consideration of the application or request only if the
22 Commission—

23 “(A) finds that there are extraordinary cir-
24 cumstances requiring additional time for consid-
25 eration of the application or request such that, if

1 *the deadline were not extended, the public inter-*
2 *est would be seriously prejudiced; and*

3 “*(B) issues a public notice of the finding*
4 *described in subparagraph (A) that states—*

5 “*(i) the reasons of the Commission for*
6 *the extension; and*

7 “*(ii) the length of the period of the ex-*
8 *tension.*

9 “*(2) LENGTH.—The Commission may not grant*
10 *an extension of a deadline under paragraph (1) for*
11 *a period that exceeds 90 days but may grant 1 or*
12 *more additional extensions of such deadline under*
13 *such paragraph, if the Commission makes the finding*
14 *and issues the public notice required by such para-*
15 *graph with respect to any such additional extension.*

16 “*(n) REVIEW FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND LAW EN-*
17 *FORCEMENT CONCERNs.—*

18 “*(1) REVIEW REQUIRED FOR ENTITIES WITH RE-*
19 *PORTABLE FOREIGN OWNERSHIP.—In the case of an*
20 *application under subsection (b), (c), or (d), a request*
21 *for modification under subsection (g), or a request for*
22 *modification of a covered authorization that is sub-*
23 *mitted by an entity that the Commission determines*
24 *to have reportable foreign ownership, the Commission*
25 *shall refer such application or request to the Com-*

1 mittee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in
2 the United States Telecommunications Services Sector
3 established by Executive Order No. 13913 (85 Fed.
4 Reg. 19643) (in this subsection referred to as the
5 ‘Committee’) for review of national security and law
6 enforcement concerns that may be raised by such ap-
7 plication or request.

8 “(2) REVIEW AT DISCRETION OF COMMISSION.—
9 In addition to the applications and requests that the
10 Commission is required to refer to the Committee
11 under paragraph (1), the Commission may, in the
12 discretion of the Commission, refer any other applica-
13 tion under subsection (b), (c), or (d), request for
14 modification under subsection (g), or request for
15 modification of a covered authorization to the Com-
16 mittee for review of national security and law en-
17 forcement concerns that may be raised by such appli-
18 cation or request.

19 “(o) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) COVERED APPLICATION.—The term ‘covered
21 application’ means an application for a license or
22 grant of market access to operate a system described
23 in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (b)(1)
24 or subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (c)(1)

1 *that is pending on the date of the enactment of this*
2 *section.*

3 “(2) *COVERED AUTHORIZATION.*—The term ‘cov-
4 *ered authorization’ means—*

5 “(A) *a license or grant of market access*
6 *granted by the Commission to operate a system*
7 *described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of*
8 *subsection (b)(1) or subparagraph (A), (B), or*
9 *(C) of subsection (c)(1) that is in effect on the*
10 *date of the enactment of this section; or*

11 “(B) *a license or grant of market access*
12 *granted by Commission approval of a covered*
13 *application.*

14 “(3) *COVERED PERIOD.*—The term ‘covered pe-
15 *riod’ means, with respect to a covered authorization,*
16 *the period of time that begins on the date of the enact-*
17 *ment of this section and ends on the earliest of—*

18 “(A) *the date that is 11 years after such*
19 *date of enactment;*

20 “(B) *the date on which the Commission de-*
21 *termines that the licensee or grantee (as the case*
22 *may be) has not either—*

23 “(i) *deployed a level of service com-*
24 *mensurate with the terms of the license or*
25 *grant of market access; or*

1 “(ii) otherwise demonstrated progress
2 and investment consistent with the deploy-
3 ment obligations under the license or grant
4 of market access;

5 “(C) the date on which the Commission
6 grants a request to renew the covered authoriza-
7 tion; or

8 “(D) the date on which the Commission
9 grants a request for a modification of the covered
10 authorization described in subsection
11 (h)(2)(B)(i)(II).

12 “(4) COVERED RADIOPHARMACEUTICAL SERVICE.—The term ‘covered radiocommunication service’
13 means a radiocommunication service (as defined in
14 the radio regulations of the International Tele-
15 communication Union that are in force as of the date
16 of the enactment of this section (or any successor to
17 such regulations)), except that such term does not in-
18 clude any radionavigation or safety service specifi-
19 cally identified by the Commission as a safety service
20 for aeronautical or maritime transportation.

22 “(5) GATEWAY STATION.—The term ‘gateway
23 station’ means an earth station or a group of earth
24 stations that—

1 “(A) supports the routing and switching
2 functions of a system operated under a license
3 granted under subsection (b) or a grant of mar-
4 ket access granted under subsection (c);

5 “(B) may also be used for telemetry, track-
6 ing, and command transmissions;

7 “(C) does not originate or terminate com-
8 munication traffic; and

9 “(D) is not for the exclusive use of any cus-
10 tomer.

11 “(6) INDIVIDUALLY LICENSED EARTH STATION.—
12 The term ‘individually licensed earth station’
13 means—

14 “(A) an earth station (other than a blanket-
15 licensed earth station) that sends a signal to,
16 and receives a signal from—

17 “(i) a nongeostationary orbit space
18 station or space stations operated under a
19 license granted under subsection (b)(1) or a
20 grant of market access granted under sub-
21 section (c)(1); or

22 “(ii) a geostationary orbit space sta-
23 tion or space stations operated under a li-
24 cense granted under subsection (b)(2) or a

1 *grant of market access granted under sub-*
2 *section (c)(2); or*
3 “*(B) a gateway station.*

4 “*(7) ORBITAL VARIANCE EFFICIENCY.—The term*
5 ‘*orbital variance efficiency*’ means the mean of the
6 *distance between the actual altitude of each space sta-*
7 *tion and the authorized altitude for each space station*
8 *authorized under subsection (b)(1).*”.

9 *(b) RELATION TO OTHER LAW AMENDMENTS.—The*
10 *Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is*
11 *amended—*

12 *(1) in section 309(j)(2)—*

13 *(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; or”*
14 *and inserting a semicolon;*

15 *(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as*
16 *subparagraph (D); and*

17 *(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the*
18 *following new subparagraph:*

19 *“(C) for licenses, grants of market access, or*
20 *authorizations granted under section 346; or”;*

21 *and*

22 *(2) in section 309(k)—*

23 *(A) in the heading, by striking “BROAD-*
24 *CAST STATION RENEWAL PROCEDURES” and in-*

1 *serting “RENEWAL PROCEDURES FOR CERTAIN*
2 *AUTHORIZATIONS”;*

3 *(B) in paragraph (1)—*

4 *(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—*

5 *(I) by inserting “, the licensee of*
6 *a license granted under section 346(b),*
7 *the grantee of a grant of market access*
8 *granted under section 346(c), or an en-*
9 *tity with authorization granted under*
10 *section 346(d),” after “broadcast sta-*
11 *tion”;*

12 *(II) by inserting “, grant, or au-*
13 *thorization” after “such license”;*

14 *(III) by striking “that station”*
15 *and inserting “that licensee, grantee,*
16 *or entity”; and*

17 *(IV) by inserting “, grant of mar-*
18 *ket access, or authorization” after “its*
19 *license”;*

20 *(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking*
21 *“the station” and inserting “in the case of*
22 *a broadcast station, the station”;*

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively;

6 “(B) in the case of a licensee of a license
7 granted under section 346(b), a grantee of a
8 grant of market access granted under section
9 346(c), or an entity with authorization granted
10 under section 346(d), the licensee, grantee, or en-
11 tity has met the requirements of section 346(e);”;

(D) in paragraph (3)—

24 (c) *APPLICABILITY.*—The requirements in the amend-
25 ments made by this section apply with respect to any appli-

1 cation submitted under subsection (b), (c), or (d) of section
2 346 of the Communications Act of 1934 and any request
3 for renewal or modification submitted under such section,
4 as added by subsection (a), on or after the date of the enact-
5 ment of this Act.

Union Calendar No. 125

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION
H. R. 1338

[Report No. 118-157]

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide authority for certain licenses, and for other purposes.

JULY 25, 2023

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed