

COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY ACT

JULY 10, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GUTHRIE, from the Committee on Energy and Commerce,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1717]

The Committee on Energy and Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1717) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 1717, the Communications Security Act, was introduced on February 27, 2025, by Representative Robert Menendez (D–NJ). The bill directs the Chair of the Federal Communications Commis-

sion (FCC) to establish a committee to advise the Commission on issues related to the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, if such committee is not in current operation.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The FCC established the Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council (CSRIC) to “provide recommendations to the Commission regarding best practices and actions the Commission can take to ensure optimal security, reliability, and interoperability of commercial and public safety communications.”¹ A hallmark of the body has been the collaboration between representatives from private industry, government, and other stakeholders in a forum that facilitates information sharing and the advancement of important issues.² CSRIC has been rechartered in two-year increments since 2009 with new membership, working groups, and issues, including most recently in March 2024.³

Experts have indicated the importance to the information and communications technology sector of advancing and strengthening existing government partnerships—especially those between agencies in the Commerce Department, the FCC, and the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).⁴ The legislation would advance that goal by making CSRIC a permanent advisory council to the FCC, without making changes to the purpose or operations of the body.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Committee on Energy and Commerce held the following hearing in the development of this legislation during the 119th Congress.

On January 23, 2025, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing. The title of the hearing was “Strengthening American Leadership in Wireless Technology.” The Subcommittee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Michael K. Powell, President & CEO, NCTA—The Internet & Television Association;
- Brad Gillen, Executive Vice President, CTIA—The Wireless Association;
- Diane Rinaldo, Executive Director, Open RAN Policy Coalition; and
- Chris Lewis, President & CEO, Public Knowledge.

On April 8, 2025, the full Committee on Energy and Commerce met in open markup session and ordered H.R. 1717, without amendment, favorably reported to the House by a record vote of 50–1.

¹Federal Communications Commission, *FCC Announces First Meeting of the Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council (CSRIC) Scheduled for December 7, 2009*, at FCC Headquarters, Public Notice, DA 09–2429 (Nov. 17, 2009).

²John Marinho, *CSRIC: A Crucial Cybersecurity Partnership Protecting Wireless Consumers, and Federal Agencies*, CTIA Blog (March 10, 2021) (available at www.ctia.org/news/blog-csric-a-crucial-cybersecurity-partnership-protecting-wireless-consumers-and-federal-agencies).

³Federal Communications Commission, *FCC Announces Intent to Re-Establish the Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council and Solicits Nominations for Membership*, Public Notice, DA 23–1187 (Dec. 20, 2023).

⁴Testimony of Clete Johnson, Hearing on *A Safe Wireless Future: Securing Our Networks and Supply Chains*, United States House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology (June 30, 2021).

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII requires the Committee to list the record votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto. The following reflects the record vote taken during the Committee consideration:

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
119TH CONGRESS
ROLL CALL VOTE # 11**

BILL: H.R. 1717

AMENDMENT: Final Passage

DISPOSITION: Agreed to, by a roll call vote of 50 yeas and 1 nay.

REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT	REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
Mr. Guthrie	X			Mr. Pallone	X		
Mr. Latta	X			Ms. DeGette	X		
Mr. Griffith	X			Ms. Schakowsky	X		
Mr. Bilirakis	X			Ms. Matsui	X		
Mr. Hudson	X			Ms. Castor	X		
Mr. Carter (GA)	X			Mr. Tonko	X		
Mr. Palmer	X			Ms. Clarke		X	
Mr. Dunn	X			Mr. Ruiz	X		
Mr. Crenshaw				Mr. Peters	X		
Mr. Joyce	X			Mrs. Dingell	X		
Mr. Weber	X			Mr. Veasey	X		
Mr. Allen	X			Ms. Kelly	X		
Mr. Balderson	X			Ms. Barragán	X		
Mr. Fulcher	X			Mr. Soto	X		
Mr. Pluger	X			Ms. Schrier	X		
Mrs. Harshbarger	X			Ms. Trahan	X		
Mrs. Miller-Meeks	X			Ms. Fletcher	X		
Mrs. Cammack	X			Ms. Ocasio-Cortez	X		
Mr. Obernolte				Mr. Auchincloss	X		
Mr. James	X			Mr. Carter (LA)	X		
Mr. Bentz	X			Mr. Menendez	X		
Mrs. Houchin	X			Mr. Mullin	X		
Mr. Fry	X			Mr. Landsman	X		
Ms. Lee				Ms. McClellan	X		
Mr. Langworthy	X						
Mr. Kean	X						
Mr. Rulli	X						
Mr. Evans	X						
Mr. Goldman	X						
Mrs. Fedorchak	X						

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OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee held a hearing and made findings that are reflected in this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII, the Committee finds that H.R. 1717 would result in no new or increased budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII, at the time this report was filed, the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was not available.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this legislation is to permanently establish the Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council for the purpose of developing best practices and advising the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission on issues related to Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 1717 is known to be duplicative of another Federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

RELATED COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop H.R. 1717:

On January 23, 2025, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing. The title of the hearing was “Strengthening American Leadership in Wireless Technology.” The Subcommittee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Michael K. Powell, President & CEO, NCTA—The Internet & Television Association;
- Brad Gillen, Executive Vice President, CTIA—The Wireless Association;
- Diane Rinaldo, Executive Director, Open RAN Policy Coalition; and
- Chris Lewis, President & CEO, Public Knowledge.

COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. At the time this report was filed, the estimate was not available.

EARMARK, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Pursuant to clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI, the Committee finds that H.R. 1717 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

One advisory committee within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act was created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Sec.1. Short title

Section 1 designates that the short title may be cited as the “Communications Security Act”.

Sec. 2. Council on Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability

Section 2 directs the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) to establish, within 90 days, a council (Council) to advise the Commission on, among other things, the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, or, alternatively, to designate any committee operating on the date of enactment for purposes of the statute and to make any necessary changes to membership in accordance with the legislation.

It provides that the Chair of the Commission (Chair) can appoint members to the council, which, to the extent practicable, shall be composed of representatives from companies in the communications industry, except those companies determined by the Chair to be not trusted; representatives from public interest or academia, except from organizations or institutions determined by the Chair to be not trusted; and representatives of the Federal government, state and local government, and Tribal governments. Members shall have the relevant knowledge and expertise on issues related to the mission of the Council. The legislation also provides that members’ terms shall last two years, and that if there is a vacancy the term shall last until the end of the previous term, or a successor is named.

The legislation also requires the Council to submit reports to the Chair every two years, and the reports shall be made public on the Commission’s website. Finally, it specifies that Section 14(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act regarding termination of

advisory committee's shall not apply to the Council, and it defines terms used in the legislation, including "not trusted."

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

This legislation does not amend any existing Federal statute.

