

AMERICAN BROADBAND ACT



SECTION BY SECTION SUMMARY

TITLE I—BROADBAND EXPANSION

Section 101: Broadband Expansion Grant Program

- This section establishes a broadband grant program at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) that would award grants to expand broadband access in rural America.
- This section authorizes \$20 billion dollars over 5 years for NTIA to carry out the grant program.
- This grant program would require NTIA to use the maps created by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under the bipartisan, bicameral Broadband DATA Act to ensure that federal broadband support reaches truly unserved areas and is not used to fund wasteful overbuilding.
- The program would award grants to partnerships between private industry and state and local governments that have streamlined their permitting processes so that federal support pays for broadband expansion and not red tape.

Section 102: Mobile Broadband Expansion Grant Program

- This section establishes a mobile broadband grant program at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) that would award grants to expand wireless broadband in rural America.
- This section authorizes \$3 billion dollars over 5 years for NTIA to carry out the grant program.
- This grant program would require NTIA to use the maps created by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under the bipartisan, bicameral Broadband DATA Act to ensure that federal broadband support reaches truly unserved areas and is not used to fund wasteful overbuilding.
- The program would award grants to partnerships between private industry and state and local governments that have streamlined their permitting processes so that federal support pays for wireless expansion and not red tape.

TITLE II—BOOSTING BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY AGENDA

Section 201: Wireless Leadership

- This section would streamline permitting processes for wireless providers by preserving State and local zoning authority subject to reasonable limitations, like shot clocks and cost-based fees, to ensure providers receive an answer on their applications in a timely manner.

Section 202: Broadband Leadership

- This section streamlines permitting processes for telecommunications service providers by preserving State and local zoning authority subject to reasonable limitations, like shot clocks and cost-based fees, to ensure providers receive an answer on their applications in a timely manner.

Section 203: Cable Leadership

- This section would place shot clocks on a cable franchising authority to act on a request for a new franchise to speed up deployment.

Section 204: Cable Expansion

- This section would streamline permitting processes for cable operators by preserving franchising authority subject to reasonable limitations, like shot clocks, to ensure cable operators receive an answer on applications to upgrade or deploy new facilities in a timely manner.

Section 205: Cable Competition

- This section would streamline the transfer of a franchise from a franchise authority to a cable operator.

Section 206: Cable Transparency

- This section would clarify and make more transparent the terms for a cable franchise.

Section 207: Communities Overregulating Networks Need Economic Competition Today

- This section would streamline the transfer of a franchise from a franchise authority to a cable operator.

Section 208: Streamlining Permitting to Enable Efficient Deployment of Broadband Infrastructure

- This section would streamline permitting processes for wireless providers by preserving State and local zoning authority subject to reasonable limitations, like shot clocks and cost-based fees, to ensure providers receive an answer on their applications in a timely manner.

TITLE II—BOOSTING BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY AGENDA

Section 209: Wireless Broadband Competition and Efficient Deployment

- This section would streamline permitting processes for wireless providers by preserving State and local zoning authority subject to reasonable limitations, like shot clocks and cost-based fees, to ensure providers receive an answer on their applications in a timely manner.

Section 210: Broadband Competition and Efficient Deployment

- This section would remove the requirement to prepare an environmental or historic preservation review in order to add or upgrade wireline facilities.

Section 211: Wireless Resiliency and Flexible Investment

- This section would make it easier to improve the resiliency of communications networks by expediting the approval process to modify existing wireless facilities to provide backup power or more reliable connection capabilities.

Section 212: Broadband Resiliency and Flexible Investment

- This section would expedite the approval process for modifications to wireline facilities that would not substantially expand their existing footprint, including those that would improve public safety and resiliency.

Section 213: Proportional Reviews for Broadband Deployment

- This section would speed up the process to modify an existing wireless tower or base station through the addition, removal, or replacement of transmission equipment.

Section 214: Protecting Critical Infrastructure

- This section would establish a penalty of a 2-year prison term for anyone who willfully or maliciously destroys a communications facility.

Section 215: Reducing Antiquated Permitting for Infrastructure Deployment

- This section would provide clarity and certainty for providers to comply with historical regulations and speed up the deployment of wireless infrastructure.

Section 216: Coastal Broadband Deployment

- This section would provide clarity and certainty for providers to comply with historical regulations and speed up the deployment of wireless infrastructure.

TITLE II—BOOSTING BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY AGENDA

Section 217: Brownfields Broadband Deployment

- This section would remove the requirement to prepare an environmental or historic preservation review for the deployment of a broadband project entirely within a brownfields site, which is previously disturbed land.

Section 218: Trusted Broadband Networks

- This section would remove the requirement to prepare an environmental or historic preservation review prior to removing and replacing network equipment that puts our national security at risk.

Section 219: Connecting Communities Post Disaster

- This section would accelerate replacing and improving communications facilities in Presidentially-declared disaster areas.

Section 220: Wildfire Wireless Resiliency

- This section would speed up the deployment of projects to replace or improve communications facilities damaged after a wildfire.

Section 221: Standard Fees

- This section would establish a common fee for processing applications to deploy communications facilities on federal property.

Section 222: Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment

- This section would direct NTIA to lead an interagency strike force to help prioritize reviews for requests to deploy broadband on federal land.

Section 223: Federal Broadband Deployment in Unserved Areas

- This section would allow the Department of Interior to integrate FCC broadband mapping data into a platform that shows which Federal property can support communications facilities in unserved areas.

Section 224: Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking

- This section would require NTIA to submit a plan to Congress on tracking the acceptance, processing, and disposal of requests for communications use authorizations on federal property.