

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 253

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## AN ACT

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Communica-  
3 tions Commission Consolidated Reporting Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. COMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE REPORT.**

5 Title I of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
6 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the  
7 following:

8 **“SEC. 13. COMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE REPORT.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the last quarter of every even-  
10 numbered year, the Commission shall publish on its  
11 website and submit to the Committee on Energy and Com-  
12 merce of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
13 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate  
14 a report on the state of the communications marketplace.

15 “(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required under sub-  
16 section (a) shall—

17 “(1) assess the state of competition in the com-  
18 munications marketplace, including competition to  
19 deliver voice, video, audio, and data services among  
20 providers of telecommunications, providers of com-  
21 mercial mobile service (as defined in section 332),  
22 multichannel video programming distributors (as de-  
23 fined in section 602), broadcast stations, providers  
24 of satellite communications, Internet service pro-  
25 viders, and other providers of communications serv-  
26 ices;

1           “(2) assess the state of deployment of commu-  
2           nications capabilities, including advanced tele-  
3           communications capability (as defined in section 706  
4           of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C.  
5           1302)), regardless of the technology used for such  
6           deployment;

7           “(3) assess whether laws, regulations, regu-  
8           latory practices, or demonstrated marketplace prac-  
9           tices pose a barrier to competitive entry into the  
10          communications marketplace or to the competitive  
11          expansion of existing providers of communications  
12          services; and

13          “(4) describe the agenda of the Commission for  
14          the next 2-year period for addressing the challenges  
15          and opportunities in the communications market-  
16          place that were identified through the assessments  
17          under paragraphs (1) through (3).

18          “(c) EXTENSION.—If the Senate confirms the Chair-  
19          man of the Commission during the third or fourth quarter  
20          of an even-numbered year, the report required under sub-  
21          section (a) may be published on the website of the Com-  
22          mission and submitted to the Committee on Energy and  
23          Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
24          mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the  
25          Senate by March 1 of the following odd-numbered year.

1 “(d) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.—

2 “(1) ASSESSING COMPETITION.—In assessing  
3 the state of competition under subsection (b)(1), the  
4 Commission shall consider all forms of competition,  
5 including the effect of intermodal competition, facili-  
6 ties-based competition, and competition from new  
7 and emergent communications services, including the  
8 provision of content and communications using the  
9 Internet.

10 “(2) ASSESSING DEPLOYMENT.—In assessing  
11 the state of deployment under subsection (b)(2), the  
12 Commission shall include a list of geographical areas  
13 that are not served by any provider of advanced tele-  
14 communications capability.

15 “(3) CONSIDERING SMALL BUSINESSES.—In as-  
16 sessed the state of competition under subsection  
17 (b)(1) and barriers under subsection (b)(3), the  
18 Commission shall consider market entry barriers for  
19 entrepreneurs and other small businesses in the  
20 communications marketplace in accordance with the  
21 national policy under section 257(b).

22 “(e) NOTIFICATION OF DELAY IN REPORT.—If the  
23 Commission fails to publish a report by the applicable  
24 deadline under subsection (a) or (c), the Commission shall,

1 not later than 7 days after the deadline and every 60 days  
2 thereafter until the publication of the report—

3 “(1) provide notification of the delay by letter  
4 to the chairperson and ranking member of—

5 “(A) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
6 merce of the House of Representatives; and

7 “(B) the Committee on Commerce,  
8 Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

9 “(2) indicate in the letter the date on which the  
10 Commission anticipates the report will be published;  
11 and

12 “(3) publish the letter on the website of the  
13 Commission.”.

14 **SEC. 3. CONSOLIDATION OF REDUNDANT REPORTS; CON-**  
15 **FORMING AMENDMENTS.**

16 (a) ORBIT ACT REPORT.—Section 646 of the Com-  
17 munications Satellite Act of 1962 (47 U.S.C. 765e) is re-  
18 pealed.

19 (b) SATELLITE COMPETITION REPORT.—Section 4 of  
20 Public Law 109–34 (47 U.S.C. 703) is repealed.

21 (c) INTERNATIONAL BROADBAND DATA REPORT.—  
22 Section 103(b)(1) of the Broadband Data Improvement  
23 Act (47 U.S.C. 1303(b)(1)) is amended by striking “the  
24 assessment and report” and all that follows through “the  
25 Federal Communications Commission” and inserting “its

1 report under section 13 of the Communications Act of  
2 1934, the Federal Communications Commission”.

3 (d) STATUS OF COMPETITION IN THE MARKET FOR  
4 THE DELIVERY OF VIDEO PROGRAMMING REPORT.—Sec-  
5 tion 628 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.  
6 548) is amended—

7 (1) by striking subsection (g);

8 (2) by redesignating subsection (j) as sub-  
9 section (g); and

10 (3) by transferring subsection (g) (as redesign-  
11 nated) so that it appears after subsection (f).

12 (e) REPORT ON CABLE INDUSTRY PRICES.—Section  
13 623(k) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.  
14 543(k)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “annually  
16 publish” and inserting “publish with its report  
17 under section 13 of the Communications Act of  
18 1934”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (2), in the heading, by strik-  
20 ing “ANNUAL”.

21 (f) TRIENNIAL REPORT IDENTIFYING AND ELIMI-  
22 NATING MARKET ENTRY BARRIERS FOR ENTRE-  
23 PRENEURS AND OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES.—Section  
24 257 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 257)  
25 is amended by striking subsection (c).

1 (g) STATE OF COMPETITIVE MARKET CONDITIONS  
2 WITH RESPECT TO COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERV-  
3 ICES.—Section 332(c)(1)(C) of the Communications Act  
4 of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(c)(1)(C)) is amended by striking  
5 the first and second sentences.

6 (h) PREVIOUSLY ELIMINATED ANNUAL REPORT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Commu-  
8 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 154) is amended—

9 (A) by striking subsection (k); and

10 (B) by redesignating subsections (l)  
11 through (o) as subsections (k) through (n), re-  
12 spectively.

13 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Commu-  
14 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is  
15 amended—

16 (A) in section 9(i), by striking “In the  
17 Commission’s annual report, the Commission  
18 shall prepare an analysis of its progress in de-  
19 veloping such systems and” and inserting “The  
20 Commission”; and

21 (B) in section 309(j)(8)(B), by striking the  
22 last sentence.

23 (i) ADDITIONAL OUTDATED REPORTS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Communications Act of  
25 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended—

- 1 (A) in section 4—
- 2 (i) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii), by
- 3 striking “and shall furnish notice of such
- 4 action” and all that follows through “sub-
- 5 ject of the waiver”; and
- 6 (ii) in subsection (g)—
- 7 (I) by striking paragraph (2);
- 8 and
- 9 (II) by redesignating paragraph
- 10 (3) as paragraph (2);
- 11 (B) in section 215—
- 12 (i) by striking subsection (b); and
- 13 (ii) by redesignating subsection (c) as
- 14 subsection (b);
- 15 (C) in section 227(e)—
- 16 (i) by striking paragraph (4); and
- 17 (ii) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
- 18 through (9) as paragraphs (4) through (8),
- 19 respectively;
- 20 (D) in section 303(u)(1)(B), by striking
- 21 “section 713(f)” and inserting “section
- 22 713(e)”;
- 23 (E) in section 309(j)—
- 24 (i) by striking paragraph (12);

1 (ii) by redesignating paragraphs (13)  
2 through (17) as paragraphs (12) through  
3 (16), respectively; and

4 (iii) in paragraph (14)(C), as redesign-  
5 nated—

6 (I) by striking clause (iv); and

7 (II) by redesignating clauses (v)  
8 and (vi) as clauses (iv) and (v), re-  
9 spectively;

10 (F) in section 331(b), by striking the last  
11 sentence;

12 (G) in section 336(e), by amending para-  
13 graph (4) to read as follows:

14 “(4) REPORT.—The Commission shall annually  
15 advise the Congress on the amounts collected pursu-  
16 ant to the program required by this subsection.”;

17 (H) in section 338(k)(6), by striking “sec-  
18 tion 396(k)(6)(B)” and inserting “section  
19 396(j)(6)(B)”;

20 (I) in section 339(c)—

21 (i) by striking paragraph (1);

22 (ii) by redesignating paragraphs (2)  
23 through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4),  
24 respectively;

1 (iii) in paragraph (3)(A), as redesignig-  
2 nated, by striking “paragraph (2)” and in-  
3 serting “paragraph (1)”; and

4 (iv) in paragraph (4), as redesignated,  
5 by striking “paragraphs (2) and (4)” and  
6 inserting “paragraphs (1) and (3)”;

7 (J) in section 396—

8 (i) by striking subsections (i) and (m);

9 (ii) by redesignating subsections (j)  
10 through (l) as subsections (i) through (k),  
11 respectively;

12 (iii) in subsection (j), as redesignig-  
13 nated—

14 (I) in paragraph (1), by striking  
15 subparagraph (F);

16 (II) in paragraph (3)(B)(iii)—

17 (aa) by striking subclause  
18 (V);

19 (bb) by redesignating sub-  
20 clause (VI) as subclause (V); and

21 (cc) in subclause (V), as re-  
22 designating, by striking “sub-  
23 section (l)(4)(B)” and inserting  
24 “subsection (k)(4)(B)”; and

1 (III) in paragraph (5), by strik-  
2 ing “subsection (1)(3)(B)” and insert-  
3 ing “subsection (k)(3)(B)”; and

4 (iv) in subsection (k), as redesign-  
5 nated—

6 (I) in paragraph (1)(B), by strik-  
7 ing “shall be included” and all that  
8 follows through “The audit report”;  
9 and

10 (II) in paragraph (4), by striking  
11 “subsection (k)” each place that term  
12 appears and inserting “subsection  
13 (j)”;

14 (K) in section 398(b)(4), by striking the  
15 third sentence;

16 (L) in section 399B(c), by striking “sec-  
17 tion 396(k)” and inserting “section 396(j)”;

18 (M) in section 615(l)(1)(A)(ii), by striking  
19 “section 396(k)(6)(B)” and inserting “section  
20 396(j)(6)(B)”;

21 (N) in section 624A(b)(1)—

22 (i) by striking “REPORT; REGULA-  
23 TIONS” and inserting “REGULATIONS”;

24 (ii) by striking “Within 1 year after”  
25 and all that follows through “on means of

1           assuring” and inserting “The Commission  
2           shall issue such regulations as are nec-  
3           essary to assure”; and

4           (iii) by striking “Within 180 days  
5           after” and all that follows through “to as-  
6           sure such compatibility.”; and

7           (O) in section 713—

8           (i) by striking subsection (a);

9           (ii) by redesignating subsections (b),  
10          (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (j) as sub-  
11          sections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and  
12          (h), respectively;

13          (iii) in subsection (a), as redesignated,  
14          by striking “subsection (d)” each place  
15          that term appears and inserting “sub-  
16          section (c)”;

17          (iv) in subsection (b), as redesignated,  
18          by striking “subsection (b)” each place  
19          that term appears and inserting “sub-  
20          section (a)”;

21          (v) in subsection (c), as redesignated,  
22          by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting  
23          “subsection (a)”;

1 (vi) in subsection (e)(2)(A), as redese-  
2 gnated, by striking “subsection (h)” and  
3 inserting “subsection (g)”; and

4 (vii) in subsection (f), as redesignated,  
5 by striking “subsection (e)(2)” and insert-  
6 ing “subsection (d)(2)”.

7 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

8 (A) MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB  
9 CREATION ACT OF 2012.—Section 6401(b) of  
10 the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation  
11 Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1451(b)) is amended—

12 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking  
13 “(15)(A)” and inserting “(14)(A)”; and

14 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking  
15 “(16)(B)” and inserting “(15)(B)”.

16 (B) TITLE 17.—Title 17, United States  
17 Code, is amended—

18 (i) in section 114(d)(1)(B)(iv), by  
19 striking “section 396(k)” and inserting  
20 “section 396(j)”; and

21 (ii) in section 119(a)—

22 (I) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii)—

23 (aa) in subclause (I), by  
24 striking “section 339(c)(3)” and  
25 inserting “section 339(c)(2)”;

1 (bb) in subclause (II), by  
2 striking “section 339(c)(4)” and  
3 inserting “section 339(c)(3)”;  
4 and

5 (cc) in subclause (III), by  
6 striking “section 339(c)(3)” and  
7 inserting “section 339(c)(2)”;

8 (II) in paragraph (3)(E), by  
9 striking “section 339(c)(2)” and in-  
10 sserting “section 339(c)(1)”;

11 (III) in paragraph (13), by strik-  
12 ing “section 339(c)(2)” and inserting  
13 “section 339(c)(1)”.

14 **SEC. 4. EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.**

15 Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this  
16 Act shall be construed to expand or contract the authority  
17 of the Federal Communications Commission.

18 **SEC. 5. OTHER REPORTS.**

19 Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this  
20 Act shall be construed to prohibit or otherwise prevent the  
21 Federal Communications Commission from producing any

- 1 additional reports otherwise within the authority of the
- 2 Federal Communications Commission.

Passed the Senate June 10, 2015.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

**S. 253**

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**AN ACT**

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens.