

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2607

To ensure appropriate spectrum planning and interagency coordination to support the Internet of Things.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 1, 2016

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SCHATZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To ensure appropriate spectrum planning and interagency coordination to support the Internet of Things.

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 “Developing Innovation
5 and Growing the Internet of Things Act” or “DIGIT
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

9 (1) the “Internet of Things” refers to the grow-
10 ing number of connected and interconnected devices;

1 (2) estimates indicate that more than
2 50,000,000,000 devices will be connected by the year
3 2020;

4 (3) the Internet of Things has the potential to
5 generate trillions of dollars in economic opportunity;

6 (4) businesses across the country can simplify
7 logistics, cut costs, and pass savings on to con-
8 sumers by utilizing the Internet of Things and re-
9 lated innovations derived from it;

10 (5) the United States leads the world in the de-
11 velopment of technologies that support the Internet,
12 and the United States technology sector is well posi-
13 tioned to lead in the development of technologies for
14 the Internet of Things;

15 (6) the United States Government can imple-
16 ment this technology to better deliver services to the
17 public; and

18 (7) the Senate unanimously passed Senate Res-
19 olution 110, 114th Congress, agreed to March 24,
20 2015, a resolution calling for a national strategy for
21 the development of the Internet of Things.

22 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
23 gress that policies governing the Internet of Things should
24 aim to maximize the potential and development of the

1 Internet of Things to the benefit of stakeholders including
2 businesses, governments, and consumers.

3 **SEC. 3. STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE INTERNET OF**
4 **THINGS.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

6 (1) the term “appropriate committees of Con-
7 gress” means—

8 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
9 and Transportation of the Senate; and

10 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
11 merce of the House of Representatives;

12 (2) the term “Commission” means the Federal
13 Communications Commission;

14 (3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
15 of Commerce; and

16 (4) the term “working group” means the work-
17 ing group convened under subsection (b)(1).

18 (b) WORKING GROUP.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall convene
20 a working group of Federal stakeholders to provide
21 recommendations to Congress on how to appro-
22 priately plan for and encourage the proliferation of
23 the Internet of Things in the United States.

24 (2) DUTIES.—The working group shall examine
25 the following aspects of the Internet of Things:

1 (A) Current and future spectrum needs.

2 (B) The regulatory environment, including
3 identification of sector-specific regulations, Fed-
4 eral grant practices, and budgetary or jurisdic-
5 tional challenges.

6 (C) Consumer protection.

7 (D) Privacy and security.

8 (E) The current use of the technology by
9 Federal agencies and their preparedness to
10 adopt it in the future.

11 (3) AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES.—In convening
12 the working group under paragraph (1), the Sec-
13 retary shall have discretion to appoint representa-
14 tives and shall specifically consider seeking represen-
15 tation from—

16 (A) the Department of Transportation;

17 (B) the Federal Communications Commis-
18 sion;

19 (C) the Federal Trade Commission;

20 (D) the National Science Foundation;

21 (E) the Department of Commerce, includ-
22 ing—

23 (i) the National Telecommunications
24 and Information Administration;

1 (ii) the National Institute of Stand-
2 ards and Technology; and

3 (iii) the National Oceanic and Atmos-
4 pheric Administration; and

5 (F) the Office of Science and Technology
6 Policy.

7 (4) NONGOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS.—The
8 working group shall consult with nongovernmental
9 stakeholders, including—

10 (A) key industry sectoral stakeholders and
11 subject matter experts;

12 (B) information and communications tech-
13 nology manufacturers, suppliers, and vendors;

14 (C) small, medium, and large businesses;

15 (D) consumer groups; and

16 (E) other stakeholders with relevant exper-
17 tise, as determined by the Secretary.

18 (5) RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—Not
19 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this
20 Act, the working group shall submit to the appro-
21 priate committees of Congress a report on the find-
22 ings and recommendations of the working group
23 under this subsection.

24 (c) ASSESSING SPECTRUM NEEDS TO SUPPORT THE
25 INTERNET OF THINGS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, in con-
2 sultation with the National Telecommunications and
3 Information Administration, shall conduct a study to
4 evaluate the current and future spectrum needs of
5 the Internet of Things.

6 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the study
7 under paragraph (1), the Commission shall consider
8 and evaluate—

9 (A) whether there is adequate licensed and
10 unlicensed spectrum availability to support the
11 growing Internet of Things;

12 (B) what regulatory barriers may exist to
13 providing any needed licensed and unlicensed
14 spectrum for the Internet of Things; and

15 (C) what the role of licensed and unli-
16 censed spectrum is in the growth of the Inter-
17 net of Things.

18 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
19 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall
20 submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a
21 report containing recommendations relating to the
22 study conducted under paragraph (1).

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