

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1588

To require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to report to Congress on any barriers to establishing online portals to accept, process, and dispose of certain Form 299s, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself and Mrs. DINGELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to report to Congress on any barriers to establishing online portals to accept, process, and dispose of certain Form 299s, 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 “Facilitating the De-
5 ployment of Infrastructure with Greater Internet Trans-

1 actions And Legacy Applications Act” or the “Facilitating
2 DIGITAL Applications Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON BARRIERS TO ESTABLISHING ONLINE**
4 **PORTALS TO ACCEPT, PROCESS, AND DIS-**
5 **POSE OF CERTAIN FORM 299s.**

6 (a) REPORT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this section, and every
9 60 days thereafter until the Secretaries concerned
10 each notify the Assistant Secretary under paragraph
11 (2), the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the ap-
12 propriate congressional committees a report that de-
13 scribes—

14 (A) whether the Secretaries concerned have
15 established, with respect to the relevant covered
16 department, an online portal for the acceptance,
17 processing, and disposal of a Form 299 for
18 communications use authorization; and

19 (B) any barrier to the establishment of any
20 such portal.

21 (2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 3 business
22 days after the date on which the online portal has
23 been established by a Secretary pursuant to para-
24 graph (1), that Secretary shall notify the Assistant
25 Secretary of the establishment of such portal.

1 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

2 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
3 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
4 mittees” means—

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

7 (B) the Committee on Natural Resources
8 of the House of Representatives;

9 (C) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
10 and Transportation of the Senate; and

11 (D) the Committee on Environment and
12 Public Works of the Senate.

13 (2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
14 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
15 Commerce for Communications and Information.

16 (3) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.—The term
17 “communications facility” has the meaning given the
18 term “communications facility installation” in sec-
19 tion 6409(d) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job
20 Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(d)).

21 (4) COMMUNICATIONS USE.—The term “com-
22 munications use” means the placement and oper-
23 ation of a communications facility.

24 (5) COMMUNICATIONS USE AUTHORIZATION.—
25 The term “communications use authorization”

1 means an easement, right-of-way, lease, license, or
2 other authorization—

3 (A) provided by the Secretary of the Inte-
4 rior or the Secretary of Agriculture;

5 (B) to locate or modify a communications
6 facility on covered land; and

7 (C) for the primary purpose of authorizing
8 the occupancy and use of such covered land for
9 communications use.

10 (6) COVERED LAND.—The term “covered land”
11 means—

12 (A) public lands; and

13 (B) National Forest System land.

14 (7) FORM 299.—The term “Form 299” means
15 the form established under section 6409(b)(2)(A) of
16 the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act
17 of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(b)(2)(A)), or any successor
18 form.

19 (8) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
20 “National Forest System” has the meaning given
21 that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
22 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
23 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

24 (9) RELEVANT COVERED DEPARTMENT.—The
25 term “relevant covered department” means—

1 (A) with respect to the Secretary of the In-
2 terior, the Department of the Interior; and

3 (B) with respect to the Secretary of Agri-
4 culture, the Department of Agriculture.

5 (10) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term
6 “Secretary concerned” means—

7 (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

8 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
9 through the Chief of the Forest Service.

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