

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4448

To require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to create tools for tracking the progress of grant recipients under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, to require the Assistant Secretary to help executive agencies improve compliance with the statutory deadline for processing communications use applications, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2026

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. BARRASSO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to create tools for tracking the progress of grant recipients under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, to require the Assistant Secretary to help executive agencies improve compliance with the statutory deadline for processing communications use applications, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Accelerating
3 Broadband Permits Act of 2026”.

4 **SEC. 2. TRACKING BEAD PROGRESS AND PERMITS.**

5 (a) PROGRESS DASHBOARD.—Section 60102(j) of the
6 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (47 U.S.C.
7 1702(j)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(5) PROGRESS DASHBOARD.—The Assistant
9 Secretary shall make available on a public website a
10 dashboard that tracks the progress of each eligible
11 entity through major milestones under the Program,
12 including—

13 “(A) the amount of grant funds received
14 under this section that the eligible entity has
15 expended; and

16 “(B) the number of locations at which
17 broadband service has been made available
18 using grant funds received by the eligible entity
19 under this section, and the number of those lo-
20 cations at which broadband service has been
21 utilized.”.

22 (b) TRACKING PERMITS.—Section 60102(h) of the
23 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (47 U.S.C.
24 1702(h)) is amended—

25 (1) by redesignating paragraph (6) as para-
26 graph (7); and

1 (2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
 2 lowing:

3 “(6) TRACKING PERMITS.—The Assistant Sec-
 4 retary shall create a tool to help each eligible enti-
 5 ty—

6 “(A) identify the relevant Federal permit
 7 requirements for each subgrantee of the eligible
 8 entity; and

9 “(B) monitor the progress of each sub-
 10 grantee of the eligible entity toward obtaining
 11 Federal permits.”.

12 **SEC. 3. TRACKING AND IMPROVING PROCESSING TIMES**
 13 **FOR COMMUNICATIONS USE APPLICATIONS.**

14 Section 6409(b)(3) of the Middle Class Tax Relief
 15 and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(b)(3)) is
 16 amended by adding at the end the following:

17 “(E) TRACKING AND IMPROVING PROC-
 18 ESSING TIMES.—

19 “(i) DATA CONTROLS.—Not later than
 20 90 days after the date of enactment of the
 21 Accelerating Broadband Permits Act of
 22 2026, the Assistant Secretary shall develop
 23 controls to ensure that data is sufficiently
 24 accurate and complete for an executive
 25 agency to track the processing time for

1 each application described in subparagraph
2 (A) received by the executive agency.

3 “(ii) REQUIREMENT TO ANALYZE, AD-
4 DRESS, AND REPORT ON DELAY FAC-
5 TORS.—With respect to the factors that
6 contribute to delays in processing applica-
7 tions described in subparagraph (A), the
8 Assistant Secretary shall—

9 “(I) analyze the factors as the
10 delays are occurring;

11 “(II) take actions to address the
12 factors; and

13 “(III) provide an annual report
14 on the factors to—

15 “(aa) the Committee on
16 Commerce, Science, and Trans-
17 portation of the Senate;

18 “(bb) the Committee on En-
19 ergy and Natural Resources of
20 the Senate;

21 “(cc) the Committee on En-
22 ergy and Commerce of the House
23 of Representatives; and

1 “(dd) the Committee on
2 Natural Resources of the House
3 of Representatives.

4 “(iii) METHOD FOR ALERTING STAFF
5 TO AT-RISK APPLICATIONS.—Not later
6 than 90 days after the date of enactment
7 of the Accelerating Broadband Permits Act
8 of 2026, the Assistant Secretary shall es-
9 tablish a method to alert employees of an
10 executive agency to any application de-
11 scribed in subparagraph (A) with respect
12 to which the executive agency is at risk of
13 failing to meet the 270-day deadline under
14 that subparagraph.”.

15 **SEC. 4. MINIMUM BROADBAND PROJECT COST.**

16 Section 41001(6)(A) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C.
17 4370m(6)(A)) is amended—

18 (1) in clause (iii), by striking “or” at the end;

19 (2) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v);

20 and

21 (3) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

22 “(iv)(I) is subject to NEPA;

23 “(II) involves the construction of in-
24 frastructure for broadband; and

1 “(III) is likely to require a total in-
2 vestment of more than \$5,000,000; or”.

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