

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4950

To amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to codify the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 13, 2026

Ms. DUCKWORTH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to codify the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies, 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 “Institute for Tele-
3 communication Sciences Codification Act” or the “ITS
4 Codification Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. INSTITUTE FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SCIENCES.**

6 Part A of the National Telecommunications and In-
7 formation Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C.
8 901 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 **“SEC. 106. INSTITUTE FOR TELECOMMUNICATION**
11 **SCIENCES.**

12 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

13 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
14 ‘Federal spectrum’ means frequencies assigned on a
15 primary basis to a Federal entity, as defined in sec-
16 tion 113(l).

17 “(2) OPERATION.—Under the authority pro-
18 vided to the Assistant Secretary under section 103,
19 the Assistant Secretary shall operate a test center to
20 be known as the Institute for Telecommunication
21 Sciences (referred to in this section as ‘ITS’).

22 “(3) FUNCTIONS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any
24 functions delegated by the Assistant Secretary
25 under subparagraph (B), ITS shall serve as a

laboratory for the executive branch of the Federal Government to—

“(i) study radio frequency emissions, including technologies and techniques to control those emissions and interference caused by those emissions;

“(ii) study spectrum propagation characteristics;

“(iii) conduct tests on technology that enhances the sharing of electromagnetic spectrum between Federal and non-Federal users;

“(iv) examine the interference tolerance of Federal systems operating with, or using, Federal spectrum, in collaboration with other Federal laboratories examining such issues;

“(v) analyze activities relating to access to Federal spectrum by non-Federal users and the sharing of Federal spectrum between Federal and non-Federal users; and

“(vi) conduct such other activities determined necessary by the Assistant Secretary.

1 “(B) ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS.—The As-
2 sistant Secretary may delegate to ITS the spe-
3 cific functions assigned to the Assistant Sec-
4 retary under section 103(b)(1), as they relate to
5 the responsibility for the performance of the
6 communications and information functions of
7 the Secretary, pursuant to that section.

8 “(4) AGREEMENTS AND TRANSACTIONS.—In
9 carrying out the functions described in paragraph
10 (3), the Assistant Secretary, acting through the head
11 of ITS, may enter into agreements, as provided
12 under the following authorities:

13 “(A) Sections 11 and 12 of the Stevenson-
14 Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15
15 U.S.C. 3710, 3710a).

16 “(B) Section 1535 of title 31, United
17 States Code.

18 “(C) Sections 207 and 209 of title 35,
19 United States Code.

20 “(D) The first undesignated section of the
21 Act entitled ‘An Act to authorize the Depart-
22 ment of Commerce to make special studies, to
23 provide services, and to engage in joint projects,
24 and for other purposes’, approved September
25 25, 1970 (Public Law 91–412).

1 “(b) EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION AND TRACKING
2 TECHNOLOGIES INITIATIVE.—

3 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Assistant Sec-
4 retary, acting through the head of ITS, shall estab-
5 lish an initiative to support the development of
6 emergency communication and tracking technologies
7 for use in locating trapped individuals in confined
8 spaces (such as underground mines) and other
9 shielded environments (such as high-rise buildings or
10 collapsed structures) where conventional radio com-
11 munication is limited.

12 “(2) ACTIVITIES.—In order to carry out this
13 subsection, the Assistant Secretary, acting through
14 the head of ITS, shall work with private sector enti-
15 ties and the heads of appropriate Federal agencies
16 to—

17 “(A) perform a needs assessment to iden-
18 tify and evaluate the measurement, technical
19 specifications, and conformity assessment needs
20 required to improve the operation and reliability
21 of emergency communication and tracking tech-
22 nologies described in paragraph (1); and

23 “(B) support the development of technical
24 specifications and conformance architecture to
25 improve the operation and reliability of emer-

1 agency communication and tracking technologies
2 described in paragraph (1).

3 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
4 the date of enactment of this section, the Assistant
5 Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make pub-
6 licly available, a report on the assessment performed
7 under paragraph (2)(A).”.

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