

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1788

To rechannelize spectrum in the 700 megahertz band to promote the deployment of commercial broadband technologies to facilitate interoperable communications for public safety.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To rechannelize spectrum in the 700 megahertz band to promote the deployment of commercial broadband technologies to facilitate interoperable communications for public safety.

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 “Re-Channelization of
5 Public Safety Spectrum Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The inability of first responders to commu-
2 nicate efficiently or effectively in the aftermath of
3 the Gulf hurricanes, let alone with the latest and
4 most state-of-the-art communications technologies,
5 underscores the need for decisive action to ensure
6 that problems of interoperability are resolved as
7 quickly as possible. However, interoperability should
8 not only be between existing public safety commu-
9 nications systems.

10 (2) Interoperability must also be between those
11 communications systems and the new broadband
12 wireless data technologies that are currently being
13 deployed across the country by commercial operators
14 and transforming the way Americans communicate,
15 a transformation that could also benefit our first re-
16 sponders.

17 (3) Integration of the data capabilities with tra-
18 ditional public safety voice communications could be
19 greatly facilitated, in the short term, specifically by
20 rechannelizing or reorganizing the “public safety
21 spectrum” in the upper 700 megahertz band to
22 allow for the deployment of commercially available
23 broadband technologies.

1 **SEC. 3. RECHANNELIZATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY SPEC-**
2 **TRUM REQUIRED.**

3 Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment
4 of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall
5 initiate a rulemaking to rechannelize the public safety
6 spectrum located in the upper 700 megahertz band to ac-
7 commodate commercially available broadband applica-
8 tions. Such rulemaking shall be completed within 180
9 days.

○