

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1629

To request a study by the Federal Communications Commission on the interference caused by broadband Internet transmission over power lines.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2007

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

A BILL

To request a study by the Federal Communications Commission on the interference caused by broadband Internet transmission over power lines.

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 “Emergency Amateur
5 Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) More than 650,000 radio amateurs in the
9 United States are licensed by the Federal Commu-
10 nications Commission.

1 (2) Among the basic purposes of the Amateur
2 Radio and Amateur Satellite Services are to provide
3 voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly
4 emergency communications.

5 (3) Emergency communications services by vol-
6 unteer amateur radio operators have consistently
7 and reliably been provided before, during, and after
8 floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, forest fires, earth-
9 quakes, blizzards, train accidents, chemical spills,
10 terrorist attacks, and other disasters.

11 (4) There is a compelling Federal Government
12 interest to promote the deployment of Broadband
13 over Power Line (BPL) systems that deliver energy
14 efficient, secure, and reliable services to underserved
15 areas of the United States.

16 (5) It is the policy of the United States to seek
17 mutually beneficial standards established by the
18 Federal Communications Commission that promote
19 the deployment of competitive BPL systems that do
20 not cause harmful interference to public safety serv-
21 ices and other licensed radio services.

1 **SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE BPL SERVICE STUDY LEADING TO**
2 **IMPROVED RULES TO PREVENT INTER-**
3 **FERENCE.**

4 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—Not later than 90 days after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communica-
6 tions Commission shall conduct, and submit to the Com-
7 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
8 Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
9 the House of Representatives, a report on a study of the
10 interference potential of systems for the transmission of
11 broadband Internet services over power lines (in this Act
12 referred to as “BPL service”).

13 (b) **REQUIRED SUBJECTS OF STUDY.**—The study re-
14 quired by this section shall examine the following:

15 (1) The variation of field strength of BPL serv-
16 ice signals with distance from overhead power lines,
17 and a technical justification for the use of any par-
18 ticular distance extrapolation factor.

19 (2) The depth of adaptive, or “notch”, filtering
20 for attenuating normally permitted BPL service ra-
21 diated emission levels that would be necessary and
22 sufficient to protect the reliability of mobile radio
23 communications.

24 (3) A technical justification for the permitted,
25 radiated emission levels of BPL signals relative to

1 ambient levels of man-made noise from other
2 sources.

3 (4) Options for new or improved rules related
4 to the transmission of BPL service that, if imple-
5 mented, may prevent harmful interference to public
6 safety and other radio communications systems.

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