

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1639

To amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2013

Mr. GIBSON (for himself and Mr. SCHRADER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on 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 amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, 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. AMENDMENTS TO THE RURAL ELECTRIFICA-**
4 **TION ACT OF 1936.**

5 Section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
6 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “loans and
8 loan guarantees” and inserting “loans, loan guaran-
9 tees, and grants”;

1 (2) in subsection (c)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, and
3 may make grants,” after “loans”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, and
5 in making grants,” before “under paragraph
6 (1)”;

7 (3) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the
8 following:

9 “(8) ADDITIONAL PROCESS.—The Secretary
10 shall establish a process under which an incumbent
11 service provider which, as of the date of the publica-
12 tion of notice under paragraph (5) with respect to
13 an application submitted by the provider, is pro-
14 viding broadband service to a remote rural area,
15 may (but shall not be required to) submit to the
16 Secretary, not less than 15 and not more than 30
17 days after that date, information regarding the
18 broadband services that the provider offers in the
19 proposed service territory, so that the Secretary may
20 assess whether the application meets the require-
21 ments of this section with respect to eligible
22 projects.”;

23 (4) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the
24 following:

1 “(3) REQUIREMENT.—In considering the tech-
2 nology needs of customers in a proposed service ter-
3 ritory, the Secretary shall take into consideration the
4 upgrade or replacement cost for the construction or
5 acquisition of facilities and equipment in the terri-
6 tory.”;

7 (5) by redesignating subsections (k) and (l) as
8 subsections (l) and (m), respectively, and inserting
9 after subsection (j) the following:

10 “(k) MATCHING GRANTS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make a
12 grant to an entity for a project with respect to which
13 a loan or loan guarantee is made under this section.

14 “(2) AMOUNT.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the
16 grant shall not exceed 10 percent of the cost of
17 the project.

18 “(B) MATCH REQUIREMENT.—The Sec-
19 retary may not make a grant to an entity for
20 a project unless the entity has made a binding
21 commitment to the Secretary that the entity
22 will provide for the project, from non-Federal
23 sources, an amount equal to the amount of the
24 grant.”;

25 (6) in subsection (l) (as so redesignated)—

1 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
 2 ing the following:

3 “(1) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF AP-
 4 PROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appro-
 5 priated to the Secretary to carry out this section
 6 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal
 7 years 2013 through 2017, to remain available until
 8 expended. Of the sums made available to carry out
 9 this section for a fiscal year—

10 “(A) 70 percent shall be available for the
 11 cost of loans and loan guarantees under this
 12 section; and

13 “(B) 30 percent shall be available for
 14 grants under this section.”; and

15 (B) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) in the paragraph heading, insert
 17 “LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE” before
 18 “FUNDS”; and

19 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
 20 “for loans and loan guarantees” before
 21 “under this subsection”; and

22 (7) in subsection (m) (as so redesignated), by
 23 striking “2013” and inserting “2017”.

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