

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1591

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to adopt rules and conduct outreach to offer recipients of assistance under the Lifeline Assistance Program mobile devices that are capable of receiving a WiFi signal and are capable of tethering with other WiFi compatible hardware or devices, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2017

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

A BILL

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to adopt rules and conduct outreach to offer recipients of assistance under the Lifeline Assistance Program mobile devices that are capable of receiving a WiFi signal and are capable of tethering with other WiFi compatible hardware or devices, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “WiFi Capable Mobile
5 Devices Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. WIFI FOR LIFELINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RECIPI-**
2 **ENTS.**

3 (a) RULEMAKING AND OUTREACH PROGRAM.—Not
4 later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of
5 this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall—

6 (1) issue rules to ensure that providers of mo-
7 bile broadband Internet access service that is sup-
8 ported through the Lifeline Assistance Program
9 offer to subscribers of such service, mobile devices
10 that are capable of receiving a Wi-Fi or other wire-
11 less broadband signal using unlicensed spectrum and
12 are capable of tethering with other compatible hard-
13 ware or devices; and

14 (2) provide incentives to such providers to work
15 with schools and libraries to conduct outreach to
16 those eligible for assistance under such program.

17 (b) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this Act—

18 (1) the term “mobile broadband Internet access
19 service” has the meaning given such term in section
20 8.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations;

21 (2) the term “tethering” used with respect to
22 mobile devices means connecting such mobile devices
23 to another device whereby one device connects to the
24 Internet by sharing the mobile broadband Internet
25 access service connection of the other device; and

1 (3) the term “WiFi” means wireless commu-
2 ications using the standard designated as 802.11
3 or any variant thereof.

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