

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 228

To ensure that small business providers of broadband Internet access service can devote resources to broadband deployment rather than compliance with cumbersome regulatory requirements, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 24, 2017

Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To ensure that small business providers of broadband Internet access service can devote resources to broadband deployment rather than compliance with cumbersome regulatory requirements, 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 “Small Business
5 Broadband Deployment Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS EXEMPTION.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

1 (1) the term “appropriate congressional com-
2 mittees” means—

3 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
4 and Transportation of the Senate; and

5 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
6 merce of the House of Representatives;

7 (2) the term “broadband Internet access serv-
8 ice” has the meaning given the term in section 8.2
9 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations;

10 (3) the term “Commission” means the Federal
11 Communications Commission; and

12 (4) the term “small business” means any pro-
13 vider of broadband Internet access service that has
14 not more than 250,000 subscribers.

15 (b) EXCEPTION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.—The en-
16 hancements to the transparency rule of the Commission
17 under section 8.3 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations,
18 as described in paragraphs 162 through 184 of the Report
19 and Order on Remand, Declaratory Ruling, and Order of
20 the Commission with regard to protecting and promoting
21 the open Internet (adopted by the Commission on Feb-
22 ruary 26, 2015) (FCC 15–24), shall not apply to any
23 small business.

1 (c) SUNSET.—Subsection (b) shall not have any force
2 or effect after the date that is 5 years after the date of
3 enactment of this Act.

4 (d) REPORT BY FCC.—Not later than 180 days after
5 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall
6 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
7 port that contains the recommendations of the Commis-
8 sion, and data supporting those recommendations, regard-
9 ing whether—

10 (1) the exception provided under subsection (b)
11 should be made permanent; and

12 (2) the definition of the term “small business”
13 for the purposes of the exception provided under
14 subsection (b) should be modified from the definition
15 in subsection (a)(4).

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