

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3255

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to establish a Telecommunications Workforce Development Advisory Council within the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2019

Mr. WALBERG (for himself and Ms. CLARKE of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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 Communications Act of 1934 to establish a Telecommunications Workforce Development Advisory Council within the Federal Communications Commission, 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 “Telecommunications
5 Opportunities for Workers Engaging in Real Infrastruc-

1 ture Deployment Act of 2019” or the “TOWER Infra-
 2 structure Deployment Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKFORCE DEVELOP-**
 4 **MENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

5 Part I of title III of the Communications Act of 1934
 6 (47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
 7 the following:

8 **“SEC. 344. TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKFORCE DEVELOP-**
 9 **MENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

10 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
 11 the Commission a Telecommunications Workforce Devel-
 12 opment Advisory Council (referred to in this section as
 13 the ‘Advisory Council’).

14 “(b) DUTIES.—The Advisory Council shall advise the
 15 Commission on, and develop recommendations with re-
 16 spect to—

17 “(1) the needs of the workforce in the commu-
 18 nications industry to promote the deployment of
 19 communications facility installations;

20 “(2) ways to encourage participation in indus-
 21 try-led workforce development programs; and

22 “(3) ways to improve workforce development in
 23 the communications industry.

24 “(c) MEMBERS.—

1 “(1) COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL.—The Advisory
2 Council shall be composed of members appointed
3 under paragraph (2) that shall include at least one
4 member representing, respectively—

5 “(A) the Telecommunications Industry
6 Registered Apprenticeship Program;

7 “(B) the National Telecommunications and
8 Information Administration;

9 “(C) a State agency;

10 “(D) a local agency;

11 “(E) a Tribal agency;

12 “(F) the communications industry; and

13 “(G) a minority institution (as defined in
14 section 365 of the Higher Education Act of
15 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067k)).

16 “(2) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Not later than
17 90 days after the date of the enactment of these sec-
18 tions, the Chairman of the Commission shall appoint
19 members to serve on the Advisory Council.

20 “(3) TERM.—Each member appointed under
21 paragraph (2) shall serve on the Advisory Council
22 until the termination of the Council.

23 “(4) CHAIR.—The Chairman of the Commission
24 shall designate a member of the Advisory Council as
25 Chair.

1 “(5) VACANCY.—A vacancy in the Advisory
2 Council shall be filled in the manner in which the
3 original appointment was made.

4 “(6) COMPENSATION.—The members of the Ad-
5 visory Council shall serve without compensation.

6 “(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
7 of the enactment of this section, the Advisory Council shall
8 submit a report on the recommendations under subsection
9 (b) to—

10 “(1) the Committee on Energy and Commerce
11 of the House of Representatives;

12 “(2) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
13 Transportation of the Senate;

14 “(3) the Committee on Education and Labor of
15 the House of Representatives; and

16 “(4) the Committee on Health, Education,
17 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

18 “(e) TERMINATION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL.—Not-
19 withstanding section 14 of the Federal Advisory Com-
20 mittee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), the Advisory Council shall ter-
21 minate on March 1, 2024.

22 “(f) DEFINITION OF COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY IN-
23 STALLATION.—In this section, the term ‘communications
24 facility installation’ has the meaning given that term in

- 1 section 6409(d) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job
- 2 Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(d)).”.

