

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4032

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 21, 2021

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation

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## AN ACT

To provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding Open RAN networks, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Open RAN Outreach  
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL**  
5 **PROVIDERS REGARDING OPEN RAN NET-**  
6 **WORKS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall con-  
8 duct outreach and provide technical assistance to small  
9 communications network providers—

10 (1) to raise awareness regarding the uses, bene-  
11 fits, and challenges of Open RAN networks and  
12 other open network architectures; and

13 (2) regarding participation in the Wireless Sup-  
14 ply Chain Innovation Grant Program established  
15 under section 9202(a)(1) of the William M. (Mac)  
16 Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for  
17 Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283).

18 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-  
20 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of  
21 Commerce for Communications and Information,  
22 acting through the head of the Office of Internet  
23 Connectivity and Growth.

24 (2) OPEN NETWORK ARCHITECTURE.—The  
25 term “open network architecture” means Open RAN  
26 networks and other network elements that follow a

1 set of published open standards for multi-vendor  
2 network equipment interoperability, including open  
3 core and open transport.

4 (3) OPEN RAN NETWORK.—The term “Open  
5 RAN network” means a wireless network that fol-  
6 lows the Open Radio Access Network approach to  
7 standardization adopted by the O-RAN Alliance,  
8 Telecom Infra Project, or Third Generation Partner-  
9 ship Project (3GPP), or any similar set of published  
10 open standards for multi-vendor network equipment  
11 interoperability.

Passed the House of Representatives October 20,  
2021.

Attest:                                  CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
*Clerk.*