

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1343, the Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act, sponsored by Representatives PFLUGER and SOTO.

This bill requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to develop a plan for tracking the broadband permitting application on Federal lands.

Broadband is essential to participate in everyday activities. Most Americans rely on their broadband connection for their work, healthcare, education, and more.

Congress has provided billions of dollars to close the digital divide. Indeed, NTIA is in the process of administering the BEAD Program to connect every unserved and underserved American.

Too often, broadband deployment is delayed or prevented due to unnecessary red tape in the form of burdensome permitting requirements. Federal agencies are some of the biggest culprits behind this red tape, delaying the deployment of broadband to the communities that most need it.

The process of application and approval for some of these permits has, unfortunately, become duplicative, ineffective, and time-consuming. Worse, there is no transparency in this process.

Opaque Federal permitting review processes leave applicants in the dark on whether their application is complete, where it is in the review process, and when they can expect a final decision. This uncertainty is not good for the planning of projects.

The Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act addresses these concerns by requiring NTIA to develop a plan to improve the tracking of Federal broadband permit applications. This plan would include a process to give applicants transparency into the status of their reviews, which would improve the speed and disposition of applications. This is essential to provide clarity into the Federal permitting process.

This is an important moment in time, and we must do all that we can to ensure that every American can access reliable broadband.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I thank the sponsors for their work on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1343, the Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act.

It should come as no surprise that many of the communities lacking internet access are rural, remote, and in sparsely populated areas. Bringing this critical infrastructure to them will, in many cases, require crossing large geographic areas. This is especially true in many of our Western States, where significant amounts of territory are owned and managed by the Federal Government.

In recent years, the Energy and Commerce Committee has heard testimony about inefficiencies in Federal permitting. Specifically, witnesses acknowledge difficulty accessing information about the status and progress of applications to deploy communications infrastructure on publicly owned and managed lands.

To help address these issues, H.R. 1343 requires NTIA, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, to develop and implement a plan to assist communication providers in navigating the burdens of deploying communications infrastructure on public lands.

Ultimately, this bill should lead to more robust collaboration between those responsible for reviewing permit applications for Federal lands and the communication providers that are trying to bring high-speed internet to all of our constituents.

I thank Representatives SOTO and PFLUGER for their leadership on this issue. This bipartisan legislation is a product of regular order, and I am pleased to see it taken up by the full House today.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, H.R. 1343, the Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia for her support for H.R. 1343, and I urge a "yes" vote on this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1343.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EMERGENCY REPORTING ACT

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5200) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5200

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Emergency Reporting Act".

SEC. 2. REPORTS AFTER ACTIVATION OF DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM; IMPROVEMENTS TO NETWORK OUTAGE REPORTING.

(a) REPORTS AFTER ACTIVATION OF DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM.—

(1) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commission shall hold not less than 1 public hearing relating to all events during the preceding 1-year period for which the System was activated for not less than 7 days.

(B) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN HEARINGS.—For each public hearing held under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall consider including—

- (i) representatives of State governments, local governments, or Indian tribal governments in areas affected by such events;
- (ii) residents of the areas affected by such events, or consumer advocates;
- (iii) providers of communications services affected by such events;
- (iv) faculty of institutions of higher education;
- (v) representatives of other Federal agencies;
- (vi) electric utility providers;
- (vii) communications infrastructure companies; and
- (viii) first responders, emergency managers, or 9-1-1 directors in areas affected by such events.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which a public hearing held under paragraph (1) concludes, the Commission shall issue a report that includes, with respect to the events to which such hearing relates and to the extent known without requiring the collection of additional information—

- (A) the number and duration of any outages of—
 - (i) broadband internet access service;
 - (ii) interconnected VoIP service;
 - (iii) commercial mobile service; and
 - (iv) commercial mobile data service;

(B) the approximate number of users and the amount of communications infrastructure potentially affected by an outage described in subparagraph (A);

(C) the number and duration of any outages that prevent emergency communications centers from receiving caller location or number information or receiving emergency calls and routing such calls to emergency service personnel; and

(D) any recommendations of the Commission on how to improve the resiliency of affected communications services or networks.

(3) DEVELOPMENT OF REPORTS.—In developing a report required by paragraph (2), the Commission shall consider information collected by the Commission with respect to the events to which such report relates, including information collected through the System and the relevant public hearing.

(4) PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Commission shall publish each report required by paragraph (2) on the website of the Commission upon the issuance of such report.

(B) EXCLUSION.—In publishing a report under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall exclude information that is otherwise exempt from public disclosure under the

rules of the Commission or that was submitted to the Commission with a proper request for confidential treatment as described in section 0.459 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(b) IMPROVEMENTS TO NETWORK OUTAGE REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall conduct an investigation and publish on the website of the Commission a report on—

(1) the value to public safety agencies of originating service providers including visual information to improve situational awareness about outages in the notifications provided to emergency communications centers, as required by the rules of the Commission;

(2) the volume and nature of 9-1-1 outages that may go unreported under the outage notification thresholds of the Commission;

(3) the balance between the value described in paragraph (1) to public safety agencies and the burden and practicality for originating service providers of including visual information in outage notifications as described in such paragraph; and

(4) recommended changes to the rules of the Commission to address the matters reported under paragraphs (1) and (2).

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide the Commission or any other person authority over any provider of broadband internet access service beyond what is specifically authorized under this section.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—The term “broadband internet access service” has the meaning given such term in section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(2) COMMERCIAL MOBILE DATA SERVICE.—The term “commercial mobile data service” has the meaning given such term in section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401).

(3) COMMERCIAL MOBILE SERVICE.—The term “commercial mobile service” has the meaning given such term in section 332(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)).

(4) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(5) EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “emergency communications center” means—

(i) a facility that—

(I) is designated to receive a 9-1-1 request for emergency assistance; and

(II) performs 1 or more of the functions described in subparagraph (B); or

(ii) a public safety answering point (as defined in section 222 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 222)).

(B) FUNCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The functions described in this subparagraph are the following:

(i) Processing and analyzing 9-1-1 requests for emergency assistance and information and data related to such requests.

(ii) Dispatching appropriate emergency response providers.

(iii) Transferring or exchanging 9-1-1 requests for emergency assistance and information and data related to such requests with 1 or more other emergency communications centers and emergency response providers.

(iv) Analyzing any communications received from emergency response providers.

(v) Supporting incident command functions.

(6) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT; LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The terms “Indian tribal government” and “local government” have the meanings given such terms in section 102 of

the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

(7) INTERCONNECTED VOIP SERVICE; STATE.—The terms “interconnected VoIP service” and “State” have the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

(8) OUTAGE.—The term “outage” has the meaning given such term in section 4.5 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(9) SYSTEM.—The term “System” means the Disaster Information Reporting System of the Commission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. McCLELLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 5200, the Emergency Reporting Act, led by Representative MATSUI.

The reliability and resiliency of our emergency communications infrastructure are paramount. This legislation would direct the FCC to hold hearings and issue reports related to 911 outages after natural disasters and to make recommendations to improve outage reporting, bolster resiliency, and enhance coordination with State and local emergency officials. This will help make our communications systems stronger in the face of natural disasters.

Madam Speaker, this legislation has strong bipartisan support. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1640

Ms. McCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5200, the Emergency Reporting Act. This important bill would improve the way we assess communication failures that keep Americans in the dark with no access to 911 or emergency information during and after natural disasters.

When disaster strikes, the ability to dial 911 for help or to receive an emergency alert with potentially lifesaving information depends on networks being up and running during that event. The network staying up, in turn, depends on the strength and resiliency of our communications infrastructure and whether networks are being built and maintained to withstand increasingly powerful elements.

Every Member of this body represents a district that is susceptible to natural disasters. Hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, flash floods, earthquakes, and many more have destroyed whole communities and decimated infrastructure serving entire regions.

Madam Speaker, because we know they will continue to wreak havoc on the places we represent, it is critical that we put systems in place to gather the best information in the aftermath of natural disasters about what went wrong and why.

This bill requires the Federal Communications Commission to more closely examine communications failures in the aftermath of disaster periods so that we, as policymakers, can use information about recurring trends to help make networks more hardened and resilient in the face of future disasters. It is essential for Congress and Federal agencies to prioritize efforts to make networks more reliable so they work for all Americans when they need them most.

I thank Ranking Member MATSUI and Representative BILIRAKIS for their leadership on this important bill. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5200, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5200, the Emergency Reporting Act, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Emergencies can happen anywhere at any time, and in those moments every second counts. When a family calls 911, they should never be met with silence.

During major disasters, we have seen communications fail, and too often we are left without clear answers about what went wrong or how to prevent it from happening again.

That is why I am proud to lead the Emergency Reporting Act, a bipartisan bill, with Congressman BILIRAKIS that helps fix this. My bill directs the FCC to report after natural disasters on the extent to which people couldn't reach 911 and to recommend ways to improve outage reporting, resiliency, and coordination with State and local officials.

It also addresses unreported outages, so 911 call centers and first responders aren't left in the dark when services are disrupted.

I am really glad that we are advancing this bill today alongside other bipartisan efforts to strengthen our emergency communications systems and save lives.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to vote

in favor of H.R. 5200, the Emergency Reporting Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank Ms. MATSUI and my colleague from Virginia for their support of this bill. In closing, I encourage a “yes” vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5200.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

KARI'S LAW REPORTING ACT

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5201) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to publish a report on implementation of the Kari's Law Act of 2017, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5201

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Kari's Law Reporting Act”.

SEC. 2. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF KARI'S LAW ACT OF 2017.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall publish on the website of the Commission a report regarding the enforcement by the Commission of section 721 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 623), which shall include—

(1) a summary of the extent to which multi-line telephone system manufacturers and vendors have complied with such section;

(2) potential difficulties and obstacles in complying with such section;

(3) potential ways, if necessary, to improve the policies of the Commission to better enforce such section; and

(4) recommendations to Congress, if necessary, on further legislation that could mitigate problems like those that are addressed by such section.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM.—The term “multi-line telephone system” has the meaning given such term in section 721(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 623(f)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 5201, Kari's Law Reporting Act, led by Representative MATSUI.

Kari's Law, enacted in 2018, was named in honor of Kari Hunt, who was killed in a motel room in Marshall, Texas, in 2013. Ms. Hunt's 9-year-old daughter tried to call 911 for help four times from the motel room phone, but the call did not go through because the phone system required dialing 9 for an outbound call before dialing 911.

The law requires multiline telephone systems, such as those in offices, campuses, and hotels, to allow direct 911 dialing without extra digits when a 911 call is made. This legislation would require the FCC to issue a report within 180 days to determine the extent to which multiline telephone system manufacturers are complying with Kari's Law Act of 2017. Requiring these systems in large buildings or campuses will help save lives in case of an emergency.

This legislation has strong bipartisan support. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5201, the Kari's Law Reporting Act. This is an important bill that follows up on legislation signed into law in 2018.

The original Kari's Law was prompted by the tragic story of a young child unable to reach 911 when it mattered most. During what became a fatal domestic dispute in a hotel room, she repeatedly dialed 911 to call for help, but the call was never connected because the hotel system required guests to dial a prefix to make an external call. The young daughter of the victim did exactly as she was taught and correctly dialed 911, but that one digit ultimately stood between Kari Hunt and the help that she needed that day.

Kari's Law requires providers of multiline telephone systems, which serve entities like office buildings and hotels, to reconfigure their systems to enable callers to simply dial 911 without a prefix to reach emergency assistance.

Today, however, it is evident that providers have yet to fully comply with Kari's Law, and so this legislation will provide Congress and the FCC with the tools necessary to track down delinquent providers and ensure they comply with the law. This is critically im-

portant so that tragedies like that of Kari Hunt do not happen again.

I thank Ranking Member MATSUI and Representative BILIRAKIS for their leadership on this important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5201.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), the ranking member.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I rise in support of H.R. 5201, Kari's Law Reporting Act.

In an emergency, there is no room for confusion or delay. Every second counts, and every American should have confidence that when they dial 911, help is on the way.

This is why Congressman BILIRAKIS and I partnered in this bipartisan bill. It builds upon Kari's Law, which Congress passed in 2018, to require multiline telephone systems to allow direct dialing of 911 without needing to dial an extra digit.

That law came from the tragic murder of Kari Hunt when her daughter couldn't reach emergency services from a hotel phone because she didn't know she needed to dial an extra 9 first.

Our bill helps ensure the law is working as intended by directing the FCC to report on compliance in hotels, offices, and facilities nationwide.

That kind of accountability matters, and we need to make sure these life-saving protections are being followed and practiced.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the Kari's Law Reporting Act.

□ 1650

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 5201, the Kari's Law Reporting Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their support of this bill and Ms. MATSUI for her work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a “yes” vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIMENEZ). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5201.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RURAL BROADBAND PROTECTION ACT OF 2025

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S.