

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8778

To require the Comptroller General to submit to Congress a report on the capacity of Federally-assisted housing to support broadband service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mr. TIMMONS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. DEAN, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. GREEN of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General to submit to Congress a report on the capacity of Federally-assisted housing to support broadband service, 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 “Home Internet Acces-
5 sibility Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON THE CAPAC-**
2 **ITY OF FEDERALLY-ASSISTED HOUSING TO**
3 **SUPPORT BROADBAND SERVICE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
6 of the United States shall submit to Congress a report
7 on the capacity of Federally-assisted housing to support
8 broadband service.

9 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required under sub-
10 section (a) shall include—

11 (1) an analysis that identifies which Federally-
12 assisted housing has access to broadband service and
13 which such housing does not have access to
14 broadband service, disaggregated by State, congres-
15 sional district, ZIP Code, and census tract, that in-
16 cludes demographic information and any Federal
17 agency responsible for such housing;

18 (2) an analysis of which such housing does not
19 currently have the capacity to support broadband
20 service deployment and would require retrofitting to
21 support broadband service deployment,
22 disaggregated by State, congressional district, ZIP
23 Code, and census tract, that includes demographic
24 information and any Federal agency responsible for
25 such housing;

1 (3) an analysis of the estimated costs and time-
 2 frame necessary for all Federally-assisted housing to
 3 have the capacity to support broadband service;

4 (4) an analysis of the challenges to more wide-
 5 spread deployment of broadband service, including
 6 the comparative market dynamics to expansion in
 7 rural areas and low-income urban and suburban
 8 areas, and the challenges to pursuing retrofits for all
 9 Federally-assisted housing to have the capacity to
 10 support broadband service;

11 (5) descriptions of lessons learned from pre-
 12 vious retrofitting actions;

13 (6) an evaluation of the ConnectHome pilot
 14 program of the Secretary of Housing and Urban De-
 15 velopment; and

16 (7) recommendations for Congress to allow for
 17 all Federally-assisted housing to have the capacity to
 18 support broadband service under a range of specific
 19 projected timelines.

20 **SEC. 3. PLAN FOR BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY IN FEDER-**
 21 **ALLY-ASSISTED HOUSING.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing and
 23 Urban Development, in consultation with the Comptroller
 24 General and other relevant heads of Federal agencies,
 25 shall—

1 (1) develop a plan for retrofitting Federally-as-
2 sisted housing, as necessary, to support broadband
3 service; and

4 (2) submit such plan to the Congress not later
5 than 18 months after the date of the enactment of
6 this Act.

7 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

8 (1) BROADBAND SERVICE.—The term
9 “broadband service” has the meaning given the term
10 “broadband internet access service” in section 8.1(b)
11 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any suc-
12 cessor regulation.

13 (2) FEDERALLY-ASSISTED HOUSING.—The term
14 “Federally-assisted housing” means any dwelling
15 that constitutes or contains a housing unit that is
16 assisted under a program administered by the Sec-
17 retary of Housing and Urban Development or the
18 Secretary of Agriculture.

19 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means each
20 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
21 Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American
22 Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern
23 Mariana Islands.

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