

140TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 3

To require the Federal Communications Commission to redefine the broadband definitions

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IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 17TH, 2021

Mr. LIGHTWOOD (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON-KOAY, Ms. TOWARD) introduced the  
following bill;

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## A BILL

To require the Federal Communications Commission to redefine the broadband definitions

*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 “Speed Act”.

### **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds that—

- (1) The Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) broadband definition of “high-speed internet” is outdated and not sufficient for families in America.
- (2) The FCC defines broadband as a download speed of 25 megabits per second (mbps) and an upload speed of 3 megabits per second (mbps).
- (3) Broadband access is essential for students and households in America to access education, healthcare, banking, and any other necessities that require a stable and high-speed internet connection.

- (4) The FCC updated its definition of broadband back in 2015, since then it struggled to keep up with its definitions to best fit the needs of a more connected America.
- (5) The FCC will need to update these standards to stay current with consumer needs and the growing demand for bandwidth and ensure that Americans have access to high-speed internet access.
- (6) Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires the FCC to report annually on whether broadband “is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion,” and to take “immediate action” if it is not.

### **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act—

- (1) COMMISSION.— The term “Commission” refers to the Federal Communications Commission.

### **SEC. 4. UPDATE TO BROADBAND SPEED DEFINITION.**

- (a) IN GENERAL.— Notwithstanding any federal law or ruling except those stated, no later than 100 days after the date of enactment of this Act, shall the Commission commence a rulemaking to update broadband definitions to at least 100 megabits per second download and 100 megabits per second upload speeds pursuant to section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which requires the Commission to annually report whether broadband is being deployed to Americans in a timely fashion or reasonable time.

### **SEC. 5. ENACTMENT.**

EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall come into effect immediately upon passage.

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