

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 645

AN ACT

To require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the effects of broadband deployment and adoption on the economy of the United States, 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 “Measuring the Eco-
3 nomic Impact of Broadband Act of 2018”.

4 **SEC. 2. ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS REGARDING THE EF-
5 FECT OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY ON THE
6 ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
9 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
10 gress” means—

11 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
12 and Transportation of the Senate;

13 (B) the Committee on Environment and
14 Public Works of the Senate;

15 (C) the Committee on Small Business and
16 Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

17 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
18 merce of the House of Representatives;

19 (E) the Committee on Transportation and
20 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;
21 and

22 (F) the Committee on Small Business of
23 the House of Representatives.

24 (2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
25 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
26 Commerce for Communications and Information.

1 (3) BROADBAND.—The term “broadband”
2 means an Internet Protocol-based transmission serv-
3 ice that enables users to send and receive voice,
4 video, data, or graphics, or a combination of those
5 items.

6 (4) DIGITAL ECONOMY.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
8 graph (B), the term “digital economy” has the
9 meaning given the term by the Secretary in car-
10 rying out this section.

11 (B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing a
12 definition for the term “digital economy” under
13 subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall con-
14 sider—

15 (i) the digital-enabling infrastructure
16 that a computer network needs to exist
17 and operate; and

18 (ii) the roles of e-commerce and dig-
19 ital media.

20 (5) DIGITAL MEDIA.—The term “digital media”
21 means the content that participants in e-commerce
22 create and access.

23 (6) E-COMMERCE.—The term “e-commerce”
24 means the digital transactions that take place using
25 the infrastructure described in paragraph (4)(B)(i).

1 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Commerce.

3 (b) BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS RE-
4 QUIRED.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enact-
5 ment of this Act, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary,
6 in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of Eco-
7 nomic Analysis of the Department of Commerce and the
8 Assistant Secretary, shall conduct an assessment and
9 analysis regarding the contribution of the digital economy
10 to the economy of the United States.

11 (c) CONSIDERATIONS AND CONSULTATION.—In con-
12 ducting each assessment and analysis required under sub-
13 section (b), the Secretary shall—

14 (1) consider the impact of—

15 (A) the deployment and adoption of—

16 (i) digital-enabling infrastructure; and

17 (ii) broadband;

18 (B) e-commerce and platform-enabled
19 peer-to-peer commerce; and

20 (C) the production and consumption of
21 digital media, including free media; and

22 (2) consult with—

23 (A) the heads of any agencies and offices
24 of the Federal Government as the Secretary
25 considers appropriate, including the Secretary

1 of Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Bureau
2 of Labor Statistics, the Administrator of the
3 Small Business Administration, and the Federal
4 Communications Commission;

5 (B) representatives of the business commu-
6 nity, including rural and urban Internet service
7 providers and telecommunications infrastruc-
8 ture providers;

9 (C) representatives from State, local, and
10 tribal government agencies; and

11 (D) representatives from consumer and
12 community organizations.

13 (d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the ap-
14 propriate committees of Congress a report regarding the
15 findings of the Secretary with respect to each assessment
16 and analysis conducted under subsection (b).

Passed the Senate December 13, 2018.

Attest:

Secretary.

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