

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2693

AN ACT

To improve oversight by the Federal Communications Commission of the wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems.

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 “Reliable Emergency
3 Alert Distribution Improvement Act of 2020” or “READI
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act—

7 (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-
8 ministrator of the Federal Emergency Management
9 Agency;

10 (2) the term “Commission” means the Federal
11 Communications Commission;

12 (3) the term “Emergency Alert System” means
13 the national public warning system, the rules for
14 which are set forth in part 11 of title 47, Code of
15 Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation);
16 and

17 (4) the term “Wireless Emergency Alerts Sys-
18 tem” means the wireless national public warning
19 system established under the Warning, Alert, and
20 Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.), the
21 rules for which are set forth in part 10 of title 47,
22 Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regu-
23 lation).

1 **SEC. 3. WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS SYSTEM OFFER-**
 2 **INGS.**

3 (a) AMENDMENT.—Section 602(b)(2)(E) of the
 4 Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C.
 5 1201(b)(2)(E)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking the second and third sentences;

7 and

8 (2) by striking “other than an alert issued by
 9 the President.” and inserting the following: “other
 10 than an alert issued by—

11 “(i) the President; or

12 “(ii) the Administrator of the Federal
 13 Emergency Management Agency.”.

14 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after
 15 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in con-
 16 sultation with the Administrator, shall adopt regulations
 17 to implement the amendment made by subsection (a)(2).

18 **SEC. 4. STATE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLANS AND**
 19 **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMIT-**
 20 **TEES.**

21 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

22 (1) the term “SECC” means a State Emer-
 23 gency Communications Committee;

24 (2) the term “State” means any State of the
 25 United States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
 26 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin

1 Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Common-
 2 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any
 3 possession of the United States; and

4 (3) the term “State EAS Plan” means a State
 5 Emergency Alert System Plan, the rules for which
 6 are set forth in part 11 of title 47, Code of Federal
 7 Regulations (or any successor regulation).

8 (b) STATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COM-
 9 MITTEE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enact-
 10 ment of this Act, the Commission shall adopt regulations
 11 that—

12 (1) encourage the chief executive of each
 13 State—

14 (A) to establish an SECC if the State does
 15 not have an SECC; or

16 (B) if the State has an SECC, to review
 17 the composition and governance of the SECC;

18 (2) provide that—

19 (A) each SECC, not less frequently than
 20 annually, shall—

21 (i) meet to review and update its
 22 State EAS Plan;

23 (ii) certify to the Commission that the
 24 SECC has met as required under clause

25 (i); and

1 (iii) submit to the Commission an up-
 2 dated State EAS Plan; and

3 (B) not later than 60 days after the date
 4 on which the Commission receives an updated
 5 State EAS Plan under subparagraph (A)(iii),
 6 the Commission shall—

7 (i) approve or disapprove the updated
 8 State EAS Plan; and

9 (ii) notify the chief executive of the
 10 State of the Commission’s findings; and

11 (3) establish a State EAS Plan content check-
 12 list for SECCs to use when reviewing and updating
 13 a State EAS Plan for submission to the Commission
 14 under paragraph (2)(A).

15 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Commission shall consult
 16 with the Administrator regarding the adoption of regula-
 17 tions under subsection (b)(3).

18 **SEC. 5. FALSE ALERT REPORTING.**

19 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
 20 of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Ad-
 21 ministrator, shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to es-
 22 tablish a system to receive from the Administrator or
 23 State, Tribal, or local governments reports of false alerts
 24 under the Emergency Alert System or the Wireless Emer-

1 gency Alerts System for the purpose of recording such
 2 false alerts and examining their causes.

3 **SEC. 6. REPEATING EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM MES-**
 4 **SAGES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
 6 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in con-
 7 sultation with the Administrator, shall complete a rule-
 8 making proceeding to modify the Emergency Alert System
 9 to provide for repeating Emergency Alert System mes-
 10 sages while an alert remains pending that is issued by—

- 11 (1) the President;
- 12 (2) the Administrator; or
- 13 (3) any other entity under specified cir-
 14 cumstances as determined by the Commission, in
 15 consultation with the Administrator.

16 (b) SCOPE OF RULEMAKING.—Subsection (a)—

- 17 (1) shall apply to warnings of national security
 18 events, meaning emergencies of national significance,
 19 such as a missile threat, terror attack, or other act
 20 of war; and

- 21 (2) shall not apply to more typical warnings,
 22 such as a weather alert, AMBER Alert, or disaster
 23 alert.

1 **SEC. 7. INTERNET AND ONLINE STREAMING SERVICES**
2 **EMERGENCY ALERT EXAMINATION.**

3 (a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date
4 of enactment of this Act, and after providing public notice
5 and opportunity for comment, the Commission shall com-
6 plete an inquiry to examine the feasibility of updating the
7 Emergency Alert System to enable or improve alerts to
8 consumers provided through the internet, including
9 through streaming services.

10 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after com-
11 pleting the inquiry under subsection (a), the Commission
12 shall submit a report on the findings and conclusions of
13 the inquiry to—

14 (1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
15 Transportation of the Senate; and

16 (2) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
17 the House of Representatives.

Passed the Senate September 24, 2020.

Attest:

Secretary.

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