

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 326

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2021

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KING, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Measuring the Eco-
5 nomic Impact of Broadband Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS REGARDING THE EF-**
2 **FECT OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY ON THE**
3 **ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
6 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
7 gress” means—

8 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
9 and Transportation of the Senate;

10 (B) the Committee on Environment and
11 Public Works of the Senate;

12 (C) the Committee on Small Business and
13 Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

14 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
15 merce of the House of Representatives;

16 (E) the Committee on Transportation and
17 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

18 and

19 (F) the Committee on Small Business of
20 the House of Representatives.

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

24 (3) BROADBAND.—The term “broadband”
25 means an Internet Protocol-based transmission serv-
26 ice that enables users to send and receive voice,

1 video, data, or graphics, or a combination of those
2 items.

3 (4) DIGITAL ECONOMY.—

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

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

12 (i) the digital-enabling infrastructure
13 that a computer network needs to exist
14 and operate; and

15 (ii) the roles of e-commerce and dig-
16 ital media.

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

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

23 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
24 the Secretary of Commerce.

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

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

12 (1) consider the impact of—

13 (A) the deployment and adoption of—

14 (i) digital-enabling infrastructure; and

15 (ii) broadband;

16 (B) e-commerce and platform-enabled
17 peer-to-peer commerce; and

18 (C) the production and consumption of
19 digital media, including free media; and

20 (2) consult with—

21 (A) the heads of any agencies and offices
22 of the Federal Government as the Secretary
23 considers appropriate, including the Secretary
24 of Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Bureau
25 of Labor Statistics, the Administrator of the

1 Small Business Administration, and the Federal
2 Communications Commission;

3 (B) representatives of the business commu-
4 nity, including rural and urban internet service
5 providers and telecommunications infrastruc-
6 ture providers;

7 (C) representatives from State, local, and
8 tribal government agencies; and

9 (D) representatives from consumer and
10 community organizations.

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

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