

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1814

To encourage spectrum licensees to make unused spectrum available for use by rural and smaller carriers in order to expand wireless coverage.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 30, 2017

Mr. KINZINGER (for himself and Mr. LOEBSACK) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To encourage spectrum licensees to make unused spectrum available for use by rural and smaller carriers in order to expand wireless coverage.

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 “Rural Spectrum Acces-
5 sibility Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF LICENSES.**

7 Section 307 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
8 U.S.C. 307) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(g) EXTENSION OF LICENSES.—

1 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this
3 subsection—

4 “(i) the term ‘rural area’ means any
5 area other than—

6 “(I) an area described in clause
7 (i) or (ii) of section 343(a)(13)(A) of
8 the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
9 velopment Act (7 U.S.C.
10 1991(a)(13)(A)); and

11 “(II) a city, town, or incor-
12 porated area that has a population of
13 greater than 20,000 inhabitants; and

14 “(ii) the term ‘small carrier’ means a
15 carrier with not more than 1,500 employ-
16 ees.

17 “(B) CALCULATION OF NUMBER OF EM-
18 PLOYEES.—For purposes of subparagraph
19 (A)(ii), the number of employees of a carrier
20 shall be determined in accordance with section
21 121.106 of title 13, Code of Federal Regula-
22 tions, or any successor thereto.

23 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later
24 than 90 days after the date of enactment of the
25 Rural Spectrum Accessibility Act of 2017, the Com-

1 mission shall establish a program under which a car-
2 rier that receives a license under this section may
3 partition or disaggregate the license in order to
4 make unused spectrum available to small carriers or
5 carriers to serve rural areas.

6 “(3) EXTENSION OF LICENSE TERM.—Any car-
7 rier that receives a license under this section and
8 participates in the program established under para-
9 graph (2) shall receive a 3-year extension of the li-
10 cense granted under this section.”.

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