

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 875

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on filing requirements under the Universal Service Fund programs.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 6 (legislative day, APRIL 4), 2017

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 Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on filing requirements under the Universal Service Fund programs.

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. STUDY AND REPORT ON FILING REQUIRE-**  
4 **MENTS UNDER UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND**  
5 **PROGRAMS.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

7 (1) the term “Administrative Procedure Act”  
8 means subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United  
9 States Code;

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

3           (3) the term “covered carrier” means an eligi-  
4       ble telecommunications carrier or service provider  
5       that receives universal service support under sections  
6       214(e) and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934  
7       (47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 254) for the provision of  
8       service under a Universal Service Fund program;  
9       and

10          (4) the term “Universal Service Fund program”  
11       means each program of the Commission set forth  
12       under part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regula-  
13       tions, or any successor thereto, including—

14               (A) the Connect America Fund set forth  
15       under subpart D of that part;

16               (B) the Lifeline program set forth under  
17       subpart E of that part;

18               (C) the E-Rate program set forth under  
19       subpart F of that part;

20               (D) the Rural Health Care program set  
21       forth under subpart G of that part;

22               (E) the Remote Areas Fund set forth  
23       under subpart J of that part;

1 (F) the Connect America Fund Broadband  
2 Loop Support program set forth under subpart  
3 K of that part;

4 (G) the Mobility Fund set forth under sub-  
5 part L of that part; and

6 (H) the High Cost Loop Support for Rate-  
7 of-Return Carriers program set forth under  
8 subpart M of that part.

9 (b) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 1 year  
10 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller  
11 General of the United States shall conduct a study and  
12 submit to the Commission, the Committee on Commerce,  
13 Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Com-  
14 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-  
15 resentatives a report, which shall include—

16 (1) an analysis of the filing requirements for  
17 covered carriers participating in a Universal Service  
18 Fund program, including any filings required by the  
19 Universal Service Administrative Company;

20 (2) an analysis of the financial impact of those  
21 filing requirements on covered carriers participating  
22 in a Universal Service Fund program; and

23 (3) recommendations, if any, on how to consoli-  
24 date redundant filing requirements for covered car-

1 riers participating in a Universal Service Fund pro-  
2 gram.

3 (c) RULEMAKING.—

4 (1) NEW OR ONGOING RULEMAKING.—Except  
5 as provided in paragraph (2), not later than 30 days  
6 after the date on which the report is submitted  
7 under subsection (b), the Commission shall—

8 (A)(i) initiate a rulemaking to consolidate  
9 redundant filing requirements for covered car-  
10 riers participating in a Universal Service Fund  
11 program; and

12 (ii) incorporate the recommendations de-  
13 scribed in subsection (b)(3), if any, into the  
14 rulemaking under clause (i) of this subpara-  
15 graph, except to the extent that doing so would  
16 violate the requirements of the Administrative  
17 Procedure Act; or

18 (B) incorporate the recommendations de-  
19 scribed in subsection (b)(3), if any, into an on-  
20 going rulemaking relating to consolidating re-  
21 dundant filing requirements of the Commission,  
22 except to the extent that doing so would violate  
23 the requirements of the Administrative Proce-  
24 dure Act.

1           (2) PREVIOUS RULEMAKING.—Paragraph (1)  
2       shall not apply if, on or before the date on which the  
3       report is submitted under subsection (b), the Com-  
4       mission completes a rulemaking to consolidate re-  
5       dundant filing requirements for covered carriers par-  
6       ticipating in a Universal Service Fund program.

○