

Calendar No. 613

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 645

[Report No. 115-341]

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

MARCH 15, 2017

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

OCTOBER 2 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 28), 2018

Reported by Mr. THUNE, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Measuring the Eco-
3 nomic Impact of Broadband Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECT OF**
5 **BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ON ECONOMY OF**
6 **THE UNITED STATES.**

7 (a) **BROADBAND DEFINED.**—In this section, the term
8 “broadband” means an Internet Protocol-based trans-
9 mission service that enables users to send and receive
10 voice, video, data, or graphics, or a combination of those
11 items.

12 (b) **ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS REQUIRED.**—The
13 Secretary of Commerce shall, acting through the Director
14 of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, conduct an assess-
15 ment and analysis of the effects of broadband deployment
16 and adoption on the economy of the United States.

17 (c) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In conducting the assessment
18 and analysis required by subsection (b), the Secretary
19 shall consider matters relating to employment, including
20 job creation, business headcount, online commerce, in-
21 come, education and distance learning, telehealth,
22 telework, agriculture, population growth, population den-
23 sity, broadband speed, and geography.

24 (d) **CONSULTATION.**—In conducting the assessment
25 and analysis required by subsection (b), the Secretary
26 shall consult with—

1 (1) the heads of such agencies and offices of
2 the Federal Government as the Secretary considers
3 appropriate, including the Secretary of Agriculture,
4 the Director of the Bureau of the Census, the Com-
5 missioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the
6 Small Business Administration, and the Federal
7 Communications Commission;

8 (2) representatives of business, including rural
9 and urban Internet service providers and tele-
10 communications infrastructure providers;

11 (3) representatives from State, local, and tribal
12 government agencies; and

13 (4) representatives from consumer and commu-
14 nity organizations.

15 (c) REPORT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
18 of Commerce shall submit to the appropriate com-
19 mittees of Congress a report on the findings of the
20 Secretary with respect to the assessment and anal-
21 ysis conducted under subsection (b).

22 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
23 GRESS.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate
24 committees of Congress” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
2 and Transportation of the Senate;

3 (B) the Committee on Environment and
4 Public Works of the Senate;

5 (C) the Committee on Small Business and
6 Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

7 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
8 merce of the House of Representatives;

9 (E) the Committee on Transportation and
10 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;
11 and

12 (F) the Committee on Small Business of
13 the House of Representatives.

14 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

15 *This Act may be cited as the “Measuring the Economic*
16 *Impact of Broadband Act of 2018”.*

17 **SEC. 2. ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS REGARDING THE EF-**

18 **FECTION OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY ON THE**

19 **ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES.**

20 (a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

21 (1) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—*

22 *The term “appropriate committees of Congress”*
23 *means—*

24 (A) *the Committee on Commerce, Science,*
25 *and Transportation of the Senate;*

1 (B) *the Committee on Environment and*
2 *Public Works of the Senate;*

3 (C) *the Committee on Small Business and*
4 *Entrepreneurship of the Senate;*

5 (D) *the Committee on Energy and Com-*
6 *merce of the House of Representatives;*

7 (E) *the Committee on Transportation and*
8 *Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;*
9 *and*

10 (F) *the Committee on Small Business of the*
11 *House of Representatives.*

12 (2) *ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-*
13 *ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of Com-*
14 *merce for Communications and Information.*

15 (3) *BROADBAND.—The term “broadband” means*
16 *an Internet Protocol-based transmission service that*
17 *enables users to send and receive voice, video, data, or*
18 *graphics, or a combination of those items.*

19 (4) *DIGITAL ECONOMY.—*

20 (A) *IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph*
21 *(B), the term “digital economy” has the meaning*
22 *given the term by the Secretary in carrying out*
23 *this section.*

1 (B) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—*In establishing a*
2 *definition for the term “digital economy” under*
3 *subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider—*

4 (i) *the digital-enabling infrastructure*
5 *that a computer network needs to exist and*
6 *operate; and*

7 (ii) *the roles of e-commerce and digital*
8 *media.*

9 (5) *DIGITAL MEDIA.*—*The term “digital media”*
10 *means the content that participants in e-commerce*
11 *create and access.*

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

15 (7) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*
16 *the Secretary of Commerce.*

17 (b) *BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS RE-*
18 *QUIRED.*—*Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment*
19 *of this Act, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary, in con-*
20 *sultation with the Director of the Bureau of Economic*
21 *Analysis of the Department of Commerce and the Assistant*
22 *Secretary, shall conduct an assessment and analysis regard-*
23 *ing the contribution of the digital economy to the economy*
24 *of the United States.*

1 (c) *CONSIDERATIONS AND CONSULTATION.*—*In con-*
2 *ducting each assessment and analysis required under sub-*
3 *section (b), the Secretary shall—*

4 (1) *consider the impact of—*

5 (A) *the deployment and adoption of—*

6 (i) *digital-enabling infrastructure; and*

7 (ii) *broadband;*

8 (B) *e-commerce and platform-enabled peer-*
9 *to-peer commerce; and*

10 (C) *the production and consumption of dig-*
11 *ital media, including free media; and*

12 (2) *consult with—*

13 (A) *the heads of any agencies and offices of*
14 *the Federal Government as the Secretary con-*
15 *siders appropriate, including the Secretary of*
16 *Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Bureau of*
17 *Labor Statistics, the Administrator of the Small*
18 *Business Administration, and the Federal Com-*
19 *munications Commission;*

20 (B) *representatives of the business commu-*
21 *nity, including rural and urban Internet service*
22 *providers and telecommunications infrastructure*
23 *providers;*

24 (C) *representatives from State, local, and*
25 *tribal government agencies; and*

1 *(D) representatives from consumer and*
2 *community organizations.*

3 *(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the ap-*
4 *propriate committees of Congress a report regarding the*
5 *findings of the Secretary with respect to each assessment*
6 *and analysis conducted under subsection (b).*

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