

Calendar No. 596

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6096

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Received; read twice and placed on the calendar

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reliable Emergency
5 Alert Distribution Improvement Act of 2020” or the
6 “READI Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. RELIABLE EMERGENCY ALERT DISTRIBUTION IM-**
8 **PROVEMENT.**

9 (a) WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS SYSTEM OFFER-
10 INGS.—

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

4 (A) by striking the second and third sen-
5 tences; and

6 (B) by striking “other than an alert issued
7 by the President.” and inserting the following:
8 “other than an alert issued by—

9 “(i) the President; or

10 “(ii) the Administrator of the Federal
11 Emergency Management Agency.”.

12 (2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days
13 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commis-
14 sion, in consultation with the Administrator, shall
15 adopt regulations to implement the amendment
16 made by paragraph (1)(B).

17 (b) STATE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLANS AND
18 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEES.—

19 (1) STATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COM-
20 MITTEE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of
21 enactment of this Act, the Commission shall adopt
22 regulations that—

23 (A) encourage the chief executive of each
24 State—

1 (i) to establish an SECC if the State
2 does not have an SECC; or

3 (ii) if the State has an SECC, to re-
4 view the composition and governance of the
5 SECC;

6 (B) provide that—

7 (i) each SECC, not less frequently
8 than annually, shall—

9 (I) meet to review and update its
10 State EAS Plan;

11 (II) certify to the Commission
12 that the SECC has met as required
13 under subclause (I); and

14 (III) submit to the Commission
15 an updated State EAS Plan; and

16 (ii) not later than 60 days after the
17 date on which the Commission receives an
18 updated State EAS Plan under clause
19 (i)(III), the Commission shall—

20 (I) approve or disapprove the up-
21 dated State EAS Plan; and

22 (II) notify the chief executive of
23 the State of the Commission's ap-
24 proval or disapproval of such plan,
25 and reason therefor; and

1 (C) establish a State EAS Plan content
2 checklist for SECCs to use when reviewing and
3 updating a State EAS Plan for submission to
4 the Commission under subparagraph (B)(i).

5 (2) CONSULTATION.—The Commission shall
6 consult with the Administrator regarding the adop-
7 tion of regulations under paragraph (1)(C).

8 (3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

9 (A) the term “SECC” means a State
10 Emergency Communications Committee;

11 (B) the term “State” means any State of
12 the United States, the District of Columbia, the
13 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United
14 States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa,
15 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
16 lands, and any possession of the United States;
17 and

18 (C) the term “State EAS Plan” means a
19 State Emergency Alert System Plan.

20 (c) FALSE ALERT REPORTING.—Not later than 180
21 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commis-
22 sion, in consultation with the Administrator, shall com-
23 plete a rulemaking proceeding to establish a system to re-
24 ceive from the Administrator or State, Tribal, or local gov-
25 ernments reports of false alerts under the Emergency

1 Alert System or the Wireless Emergency Alerts System
2 for the purpose of recording such false alerts and exam-
3 ining the causes of such false alerts.

4 (d) REPEATING EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM MES-
5 SAGES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commis-
8 sion, in consultation with the Administrator, shall
9 complete a rulemaking proceeding to modify the
10 Emergency Alert System to provide for repeating
11 Emergency Alert System messages while an alert re-
12 mains pending that is issued by—

13 (A) the President;

14 (B) the Administrator; or

15 (C) any other entity determined appro-
16 priate under the circumstances by the Commis-
17 sion, in consultation with the Administrator.

18 (2) SCOPE OF RULEMAKING.—Paragraph (1)
19 shall—

20 (A) apply to warnings of national security
21 events, meaning emergencies of national signifi-
22 cance, such as a missile threat, terror attack, or
23 other act of war or threat to public safety; and

1 (B) not apply to more typical warnings,
2 such as a weather alert, AMBER Alert, or dis-
3 aster alert.

4 (3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
5 subsection shall be construed to impair, limit, or
6 otherwise change—

7 (A) the authority of the President granted
8 by law to alert and warn the public; or

9 (B) the role of the President as com-
10 mander-in-chief with respect to the identifica-
11 tion, dissemination, notification, or alerting of
12 information of missile threats against the
13 United States, or threats to public safety.

14 (e) INTERNET AND ONLINE STREAMING SERVICES
15 EMERGENCY ALERT EXAMINATION.—

16 (1) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, and after providing
18 public notice and opportunity for comment, the
19 Commission shall complete an inquiry to examine
20 the feasibility of updating the Emergency Alert Sys-
21 tem to enable or improve alerts to consumers pro-
22 vided through the internet, including through
23 streaming services.

24 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after
25 completing the inquiry under paragraph (1), the

1 Commission shall submit a report on the findings
2 and conclusions of the inquiry to—

3 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
4 and Transportation of the Senate; and

5 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
6 merce of the House of Representatives.

7 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

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

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

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

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

1 Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regu-
2 lation).

Passed the House of Representatives November 17,
2020.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

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