

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-36
OFFERED BY MS. BUDZINSKI OF ILLINOIS

At the end of title XVII, insert the following new subtitle:

1 **Subtitle D—Communications**
2 **Matters**

3 **SEC. 17 ____ . ADDITIONAL “RIP AND REPLACE” FUNDING.**

4 (a) INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE LIMIT.—Section
5 4(k) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks
6 Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1603(k)) is amended by striking
7 “\$1,900,000,000” and inserting “\$4,980,000,000”.

8 (b) APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.—There is appro-
9 priated to the Federal Communications Commission for
10 fiscal year 2025, out of amounts in the Treasury not oth-
11 erwise appropriated, \$3,080,000,000, to remain available
12 until expended, to carry out section 4 of the Secure and
13 Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47
14 U.S.C. 1603).

15 **SEC. 17 ____ . IMPROVING THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY**
16 **PROGRAM.**

17 (a) IMPROVING VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—

1 (1) REQUIRED USE OF NATIONAL VERIFIER TO
2 DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY.—Section 904 of division
3 N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47
4 U.S.C. 1752) is amended—

5 (A) in subsection (a)(6)(C), by striking “or
6 the participating provider verifies eligibility
7 under subsection (a)(2)(B)”;

8 (B) in subsection (b)(2), by striking
9 “shall” and all that follows and inserting the
10 following: “shall use the National Verifier or
11 National Lifeline Accountability Database.”.

12 (2) REPEAL OF ELIGIBILITY THROUGH A PRO-
13 VIDER’S EXISTING LOW-INCOME PROGRAM.—Section
14 904(a)(6) of division N of the Consolidated Appro-
15 priations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752(a)(6)) is
16 amended—

17 (A) in subparagraph (C), by adding “or”
18 at the end;

19 (B) by striking subparagraph (D); and

20 (C) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as
21 subparagraph (D).

22 (3) LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY THROUGH THE
23 COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION OF THE FREE
24 LUNCH PROGRAM AND THE FREE SCHOOL BREAK-
25 FAST PROGRAM.—Section 904(a)(6) of division N of

1 the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47
2 U.S.C. 1752(a)(6)) is amended by striking subpara-
3 graph (B) and inserting the following:

4 “(B) at least 1 member of the household—

5 “(i) is eligible for and receives—

6 “(I) free or reduced price lunch
7 under the school lunch program estab-
8 lished under the Richard B. Russell
9 National School Lunch Act (42
10 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.); or

11 “(II) free or reduced price break-
12 fast under the school breakfast pro-
13 gram established under section 4 of
14 the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
15 U.S.C. 1773); and

16 “(ii) attends a school the local edu-
17 cational agency of which does not elect to
18 receive special assistance payments under
19 section 11(a)(1)(F) of the Richard B. Rus-
20 sell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
21 1759a(a)(1)(F));”.

22 (4) REDUCTION OF ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.—
23 Section 904(a)(6)(A) of division N of the Consoli-
24 dated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C.

1 1752(a)(6)(A)) is amended by striking “except that”
2 and all that follows and inserting a semicolon.

3 (5) EFFECTIVE DATE; RULES.—

4 (A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

5 (i) the terms “affordable connectivity
6 benefit”, “Commission”, “eligible house-
7 hold”, and “participating provider” have
8 the meanings given those terms in section
9 904(a) of division N of the Consolidated
10 Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C.
11 1752(a)), as amended by this subsection;
12 and

13 (ii) the term “Affordable Connectivity
14 Program” means the program established
15 under section 904(b)(1) of division N of
16 the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
17 (47 U.S.C. 1752(b)(1)).

18 (B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as pro-
19 vided in subparagraph (C), the amendments
20 made by this subsection shall take effect on the
21 date of the enactment of this Act.

22 (C) ENROLLED HOUSEHOLDS.—A house-
23 hold that received the affordable connectivity
24 benefit as of April 30, 2024, but is no longer
25 an eligible household by reason of the amend-

1 ments made by this subsection shall nonetheless
2 be treated an eligible household until the date
3 that is 180 days after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act.

5 (D) UPDATING RULES.—Not later than
6 180 days after the date of the enactment of this
7 Act, the Commission shall update the rules of
8 the Commission relating to the Affordable
9 Connectivity Program to implement the amend-
10 ments made by this subsection.

11 (E) RE-CERTIFICATION.—During the pe-
12 riod beginning on the date on which the Com-
13 mission updates the rules under subparagraph
14 (D) and ending on the date that is 240 days
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, a
16 participating provider or the Administrator of
17 the Universal Service Administrative Company,
18 as applicable, shall re-certify the eligibility of a
19 household for the Affordable Connectivity Pro-
20 gram in accordance with section 54.1806(f) of
21 title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any
22 successor regulation, based on the amendments
23 made by this subsection.

24 (b) REPEAL OF AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PRO-
25 GRAM DEVICE SUBSIDY.—Section 904 of division N of the

1 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752)

2 is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a)—

4 (A) by striking paragraph (4); and

5 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (5)

6 through (11) as paragraphs (4) through (10),

7 respectively; and

8 (2) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, or an
10 affordable connectivity benefit and a connected
11 device,”;

12 (B) by striking paragraph (5);

13 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (6)

14 through (15) as paragraphs (5) through (14),

15 respectively;

16 (D) by amending paragraph (5), as so re-
17 designated, to read as follows:

18 “(5) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—To receive a
19 reimbursement under paragraph (4), a participating
20 provider shall certify to the Commission that each
21 eligible household for which the participating pro-
22 vider is seeking reimbursement for providing an
23 internet service offering discounted by the affordable
24 connectivity benefit—

1 “(A) will not be required to pay an early
2 termination fee if such eligible household elects
3 to enter into a contract to receive such internet
4 service offering if such household later termi-
5 nates such contract;

6 “(B) was not, after December 27, 2020,
7 subject to a mandatory waiting period for such
8 internet service offering based on having pre-
9 viously received broadband internet access serv-
10 ice from such participating provider; and

11 “(C) will otherwise be subject to the par-
12 ticipating provider’s generally applicable terms
13 and conditions as applied to other customers.”;

14 (E) in paragraph (11), as so redesign-
15 ated—

16 (i) in subparagraph (D), by striking
17 “a connected device or a reimbursement
18 for”;

19 (ii) by striking subparagraph (E);

20 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
21 (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (E) and
22 (F), respectively; and

23 (iv) in subparagraph (F), as so redesi-
24 gnated, by striking “subsection (a)(6)”
25 and inserting “subsection (a)(5)”; and

1 (F) in paragraph (13), as so redesignated,
2 by striking “paragraph (12)” and inserting
3 “paragraph (11)”.

4 (c) ANTIFRAUD CONTROLS, PERFORMANCE GOALS,
5 AND MEASURES.—Section 904 of division N of the Con-
6 solidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752) is
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(k) ANTIFRAUD CONTROLS, PERFORMANCE GOALS,
9 AND MEASURES.—Not later than 180 days after the date
10 of the enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall
11 develop and implement antifraud controls, performance
12 goals, and performance measures for the Affordable
13 Connectivity Program, and in doing so, shall consider the
14 recommendations submitted by the Comptroller General of
15 the United States to the Commission in the report entitled
16 ‘Affordable Broadband: FCC Could Improve Performance
17 Goals and Measures, Consumer Outreach, and Fraud Risk
18 Management’, publicly released January 25, 2023 (GAO–
19 23–105399).”.

20 (d) REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS.—Not later than 1
21 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the In-
22 spector General of the Federal Communications Commis-
23 sion shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
24 and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on
25 Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives

1 a report analyzing the effects of this section, including the
2 amendments made by this section, with respect to improv-
3 ing the efficiency and quality of the Affordable
4 Connectivity Program established under section 904 of di-
5 vision N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47
6 U.S.C. 1752).

7 (e) APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.—Section 904(i)(2)
8 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,
9 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752(i)(2)) is amended—

10 (1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “AP-
11 PROPRIATION” and inserting “APPROPRIATIONS”;

12 (2) by striking “There is” and inserting the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(A) FISCAL YEAR 2021.—There is”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(B) FISCAL YEAR 2025.—There is appro-
17 priated to the Affordable Connectivity Fund,
18 out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise
19 appropriated, \$6,000,000,000 for fiscal year
20 2025, to remain available until expended.”.

21 **SEC. 17___. REAUCION OF CERTAIN LICENSES.**

22 (a) FCC REAUCION AUTHORITY.—Not later than 2
23 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Fed-
24 eral Communications Commission, without regard to
25 whether the authority of the Commission under paragraph

1 (11) of section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934
2 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)) has expired—

3 (1) shall initiate 1 or more systems of competi-
4 tive bidding under that section to grant licenses
5 for—

6 (A) the bands referred to by the Commis-
7 sion as the “AWS-3 bands”; and

8 (B) any other unassigned spectrum bands
9 with respect to which the Commission pre-
10 viously offered licenses in competitive bidding,
11 as determined appropriate by the Commission;
12 and

13 (2) shall initiate 1 or more systems of competi-
14 tive bidding under that section to grant licenses for
15 any unassigned spectrum bands, other than the
16 bands auctioned under paragraph (1), with respect
17 to which the Commission—

18 (A) previously offered licenses in competi-
19 tive bidding; and

20 (B) determines there is sufficient current
21 demand.

22 (b) COMPLETION OF REAUCION.—The Federal
23 Communications Commission shall complete each system
24 of competitive bidding described in subsection (a), includ-
25 ing receiving payments, processing applications, and

1 granting licenses, without regard to whether the authority
2 of the Commission under paragraph (11) of section 309(j)
3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j))
4 has expired.

