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

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

Subtitle D—Communications Matters

SEC. 17. ADDITIONAL “RIP AND REPLACE” FUNDING.

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

(b) APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.—There is appropriated to the Federal Communications Commission for fiscal year 2025, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $3,080,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out section 4 of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1603).

SEC. 17. IMPROVING THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM.

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

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

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

(2) **REPEAL OF ELIGIBILITY THROUGH A PROVIDER’S EXISTING LOW-INCOME PROGRAM.**—Section 904(a)(6) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752(a)(6)) is amended—

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

(B) by striking subparagraph (D); and

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

(3) **LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY THROUGH THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION OF THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM AND THE FREE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM.**—Section 904(a)(6) of division N of
the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752(a)(6)) is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

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

“(i) is eligible for and receives—

“(I) free or reduced price lunch under the school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.); or

“(II) free or reduced price breakfast under the school breakfast program established under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773); and

“(ii) attends a school the local educational agency of which does not elect to receive special assistance payments under section 11(a)(1)(F) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1759a(a)(1)(F));”.

(4) REDUCTION OF ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.—

Section 904(a)(6)(A) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C.
1752(a)(6)(A)) is amended by striking “except that” and all that follows and inserting a semicolon.

(5) **Effective date; rules.**—

(A) **Definitions.**—In this paragraph—

(i) the terms “affordable connectivity benefit”, “Commission”, “eligible household”, and “participating provider” have the meanings given those terms in section 904(a) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752(a)), as amended by this subsection; and

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

(B) **Effective date.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(C) **Enrolled households.**—A household that received the affordable connectivity benefit as of April 30, 2024, but is no longer an eligible household by reason of the amend-
ments made by this subsection shall nonetheless
be treated an eligible household until the date
that is 180 days after the date of the enact-
ment of this Act.

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

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

(b) REPEAL OF AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PRO-
GRAM DEVICE SUBSIDY.—Section 904 of division N of the
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (4); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (11) as paragraphs (4) through (10), respectively; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

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

(B) by striking paragraph (5);

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (15) as paragraphs (5) through (14), respectively;

(D) by amending paragraph (5), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(5) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—To receive a reimbursement under paragraph (4), a participating provider shall certify to the Commission that each eligible household for which the participating provider is seeking reimbursement for providing an internet service offering discounted by the affordable connectivity benefit—
“(A) will not be required to pay an early termination fee if such eligible household elects to enter into a contract to receive such internet service offering if such household later terminates such contract;

“(B) was not, after December 27, 2020, subject to a mandatory waiting period for such internet service offering based on having previously received broadband internet access service from such participating provider; and

“(C) will otherwise be subject to the participating provider’s generally applicable terms and conditions as applied to other customers.”;

(E) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated—

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

(ii) by striking subparagraph (E);

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

(iv) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking “subsection (a)(6)” and inserting “subsection (a)(5)”;

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

(c) **Antifraud Controls, Performance Goals, and Measures.**—Section 904 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) **Antifraud Controls, Performance Goals, and Measures.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall develop and implement antifraud controls, performance goals, and performance measures for the Affordable Connectivity Program, and in doing so, shall consider the recommendations submitted by the Comptroller General of the United States to the Commission in the report entitled ‘Affordable Broadband: FCC Could Improve Performance Goals and Measures, Consumer Outreach, and Fraud Risk Management’, publicly released January 25, 2023 (GAO–23–105399).”.

(d) **Report on Effectiveness.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Federal Communications Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives
a report analyzing the effects of this section, including the
amendments made by this section, with respect to improv-
ing the efficiency and quality of the Affordable
Connectivity Program established under section 904 of di-
vision N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47

(e) Appropriation of Funds.—Section 904(i)(2)
of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 
2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752(i)(2)) is amended—

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

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

“(A) Fiscal year 2021.—There is”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

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

SEC. 17. REAUCCTION OF CERTAIN LICENSES.

(a) FCC Reaucction Authority.—Not later than 2 
years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Fed-
eral Communications Commission, without regard to 
whether the authority of the Commission under paragraph
(11) of section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934
(47 U.S.C. 309(j)) has expired—

(1) shall initiate 1 or more systems of competitive bidding under that section to grant licenses for—

(A) the bands referred to by the Commission as the “AWS–3 bands”; and

(B) any other unassigned spectrum bands with respect to which the Commission previously offered licenses in competitive bidding, as determined appropriate by the Commission; and

(2) shall initiate 1 or more systems of competitive bidding under that section to grant licenses for any unassigned spectrum bands, other than the bands auctioned under paragraph (1), with respect to which the Commission—

(A) previously offered licenses in competitive bidding; and

(B) determines there is sufficient current demand.

(b) COMPLETION OF REAUCTIO—The Federal Communications Commission shall complete each system of competitive bidding described in subsection (a), including receiving payments, processing applications, and
granting licenses, without regard to whether the authority
of the Commission under paragraph (11) of section 309(j)
of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j))
has expired.