

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6254

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations to ensure access to voice service in order to facilitate communications between, and reunification of, alien guardians and alien children, to provide for certain requirements relating to inmate calling services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2018

Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WELCH, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SARBANES, and Ms. ESHOO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations to ensure access to voice service in order to facilitate communications between, and reunification of, alien guardians and alien children, to provide for certain requirements relating to inmate calling services, 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 “Compassionate Calling
3 and Immigrant Family Reunification Act of 2018”.

4 **SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF VOICE SERVICE TO ALIEN GUARD-**
5 **FIANS AND ALIEN CHILDREN.**

6 (a) FCC REGULATIONS.—Not later than 10 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commis-
8 sion shall promulgate regulations under section 254 of the
9 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) to provide
10 for universal service support for, or regulations under
11 other authority of the Commission under such Act to en-
12 sure, access to voice service by any alien guardian who
13 is detained or incarcerated under the immigration laws (as
14 defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Na-
15 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))) separately from the
16 alien child of the alien guardian, and by the alien child,
17 in order to facilitate communications between, and reunifi-
18 cation of, the alien guardian and the alien child.

19 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In promulgating the regula-
20 tions required by subsection (a), the Commission shall en-
21 sure access to voice service—

22 (1) at the facility at which the alien guardian
23 is detained or incarcerated and at the facility at
24 which the alien child is detained;

25 (2) at no charge to the alien guardian or the
26 alien child; and

1 (3) until the alien guardian is reunited with the
2 alien child.

3 (c) CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE RE-
4 QUIREMENTS INAPPLICABLE.—Subsections (b) and (d) of
5 section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply
6 with respect to the regulations promulgated under sub-
7 section (a) or the promulgation of such regulations.

8 (d) NO EFFECT ON EXISTING UNIVERSAL SERVICE
9 SUPPORT.—Nothing in this Act or the regulations promul-
10 gated under subsection (a) shall reduce the amount of, or
11 otherwise affect, any universal service support being pro-
12 vided under section 254 of the Communications Act of
13 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) as of the day before the date of
14 the enactment of this Act.

15 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Notwithstanding any other
16 provision of law, the regulations promulgated under sub-
17 section (a) shall take effect on the date on which such
18 regulations are promulgated.

19 **SEC. 3. INMATE CALLING SERVICES.**

20 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-
21 ond Report and Order of the Commission in the matter
22 of Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services (WC Dock-
23 et No. 12–375; FCC 15–136; adopted October 22, 2015)
24 shall apply, in its entirety, beginning on the date of the
25 enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) ALIEN CHILD.—The term “alien child”
4 means any individual not a citizen or national of the
5 United States who—

6 (A) has not been admitted into, or is not
7 authorized to enter or remain in, the United
8 States;

9 (B) is under the age of 18;

10 (C) is the child, sibling, other relative, or
11 ward of an alien guardian who was detained or
12 incarcerated; and

13 (D) entered the United States with the
14 alien guardian referred to in subparagraph (C).

15 (2) ALIEN GUARDIAN.—The term “alien guard-
16 ian” means any individual not a citizen or national
17 of the United States who—

18 (A) has not been admitted into, or is not
19 authorized to enter or remain in, the United
20 States;

21 (B) was detained or incarcerated; and

22 (C) entered the United States with an
23 alien child.

24 (3) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
25 means the Federal Communications Commission.

1 (4) VOICE SERVICE.—The term “voice service”
2 has the meaning given such term in subsection
3 (e)(8) of section 227 of the Communications Act of
4 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227). The preceding sentence shall
5 apply before the effective date of the amendment
6 made to such subsection by subparagraph (C) of sec-
7 tion 503(a)(2) of division P of the Consolidated Ap-
8 propriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) as if
9 such amendment was already in effect.

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