

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8466

To amend division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 to improve the Affordable Connectivity Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2024

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, Science, Space, and Technology, Natural Resources, Oversight and Accountability, Foreign Affairs, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 to improve the Affordable Connectivity Program, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Affordable
5 Connectivity Program Improvement and Extension Act of
6 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IMPROVING VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—

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

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

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

15 (2) REPEAL OF ELIGIBILITY THROUGH A PRO-
16 VIDER’S EXISTING LOW-INCOME PROGRAM.—Section
17 904(a)(6) of division N of the Consolidated Appro-
18 priations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752(a)(6)) is
19 amended—

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

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

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

25 (3) LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY THROUGH THE
26 COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION OF THE FREE

1 LUNCH PROGRAM AND THE FREE SCHOOL BREAK-
2 FAST PROGRAM.—Section 904(a)(6) of division N of
3 the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47
4 U.S.C. 1752(a)(6)) is amended by striking subpara-
5 graph (B) and inserting the following:

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

7 “(i) is eligible for and receives—

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

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

18 “(ii) attends a school the local edu-
19 cational agency of which does not elect to
20 receive special assistance payments under
21 section 11(a)(1)(F) of the Richard B. Rus-
22 sell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
23 1759a(a)(1)(F)).”.

24 (4) REDUCTION OF ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.—

25 Section 904(a)(6)(A) of division N of the Consoli-

1 dated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C.
2 1752(a)(6)(A)) is amended by striking “except that”
3 and all that follows and inserting a semicolon.

4 (5) INFORMATIONAL REQUIREMENT.—Section
5 904(b)(6) of division N of the Consolidated Appro-
6 priations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752(b)(6)) is
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(D) That the participating provider has
9 obtained the last 4 digits of the social security
10 number of at least 1 member from each eligible
11 household for which the participating provider
12 is seeking reimbursement.”.

13 (6) EFFECTIVE DATE; RULES.—

14 (A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

15 (i) the terms “affordable connectivity
16 benefit”, “Commission”, “eligible house-
17 hold”, and “participating provider” have
18 the meanings given those terms in section
19 904(a) of division N of the Consolidated
20 Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C.
21 1752(a)), as amended by this subsection;
22 and

23 (ii) the term “Affordable Connectivity
24 Program” means the program established
25 under section 904(b)(1) of division N of

1 the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
2 (47 U.S.C. 1752(b)(1)).

3 (B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as pro-
4 vided in subparagraph (C), the amendments
5 made by this subsection shall take effect on the
6 date of enactment of this Act.

7 (C) ENROLLED HOUSEHOLDS.—A house-
8 hold that received the affordable connectivity
9 benefit as of April 30, 2024, but is no longer
10 an eligible household by reason of the amend-
11 ments made by this subsection shall nonetheless
12 be treated as an eligible household until the
13 date that is 180 days after the date of enact-
14 ment of this Act.

15 (D) UPDATING RULES.—Not later than
16 180 days after the date of enactment of this
17 Act, the Commission shall update the rules of
18 the Commission relating to the Affordable
19 Connectivity Program to implement the amend-
20 ments made by this subsection.

21 (E) RE-CERTIFICATION.—During the pe-
22 riod beginning on the date on which the Com-
23 mission updates the rules under subparagraph
24 (D) and ending on the date that is 240 days
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, a par-

1 participating provider or the Administrator of the
2 Universal Service Administrative Company, as
3 applicable, shall re-certify the eligibility of a
4 household for the Affordable Connectivity Pro-
5 gram in accordance with section 54.1806(f) of
6 title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any
7 successor regulation, based on the amendments
8 made by this subsection.

9 (b) LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO CHANGING PRO-
10 VIDERS.—Section 904(a)(6) of division N of the Consoli-
11 dated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752(a)(6)),
12 as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

13 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B),
14 (C), and (D) as clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv), re-
15 spectively, and conforming the margins accordingly;

16 (2) by striking “The term” and inserting the
17 following:

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term”; and

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

20 “(B) LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO
21 CHANGING PROVIDERS.—Notwithstanding sub-
22 paragraph (A), in the case of a household that
23 receives an affordable connectivity benefit pur-
24 suant to the Affordable Connectivity Program
25 and is seeking to change broadband providers,

1 the term ‘eligible household’ does not apply to
2 such household for purposes of a new
3 broadband provider unless such household has
4 been receiving broadband internet access service
5 from the current broadband provider of such
6 household for at least 180 days.”.

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

11 “(k) ANTIFRAUD CONTROLS, PERFORMANCE GOALS,
12 AND MEASURES.—Not later than 180 days after the date
13 of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall de-
14 velop and implement antifraud controls, performance
15 goals, and performance measures for the Affordable
16 Connectivity Program, and in doing so, shall consider the
17 recommendations submitted by the Comptroller General of
18 the United States to the Commission in the report entitled
19 ‘Affordable Broadband: FCC Could Improve Performance
20 Goals and Measures, Consumer Outreach, and Fraud Risk
21 Management’, publicly released January 25, 2023 (GAO–
22 23–105399).”.

23 (d) REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS.—Not later than 1
24 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector
25 General of the Federal Communications Commission shall

1 submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
2 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on En-
3 ergy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a re-
4 port analyzing the effects of this section, including the
5 amendments made by this section, with respect to improv-
6 ing the efficiency and quality of the Affordable
7 Connectivity Program established under section 904 of di-
8 vision N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47
9 U.S.C. 1752).

10 (e) APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.—Section 904(i)(2)
11 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,
12 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752(i)(2)) is amended—

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

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

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

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

19 “(B) FISCAL YEAR 2024.—There is appro-
20 priated to the Affordable Connectivity Fund,
21 out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise
22 appropriated, \$6,000,000,000 for fiscal year
23 2024, to remain available until expended.”.

1 (f) RESCISSION.—Section 521(a)(4) of the Consoli-
2 dated Appropriations Act, 2024 is amended by striking
3 “\$12,440,000,000,” and inserting “\$18,440,000,000,”.

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