

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 875

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on filing requirements under the Universal Service Fund programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 6 (legislative day, APRIL 4), 2017

Mr. SULLIVAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on filing requirements under the Universal Service Fund programs.

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. STUDY AND REPORT ON FILING REQUIRE-**
4 **MENTS UNDER UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND**
5 **PROGRAMS.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

7 (1) the term “Administrative Procedure Act”
8 means subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United
9 States Code;

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

3 (3) the term “covered carrier” means an eligi-
4 ble telecommunications carrier or service provider
5 that receives universal service support under sections
6 214(e) and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934
7 (47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 254) for the provision of
8 service under a Universal Service Fund program;
9 and

10 (4) the term “Universal Service Fund program”
11 means each program of the Commission set forth
12 under part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regula-
13 tions, or any successor thereto, including—

14 (A) the Connect America Fund set forth
15 under subpart D of that part;

16 (B) the Lifeline program set forth under
17 subpart E of that part;

18 (C) the E-Rate program set forth under
19 subpart F of that part;

20 (D) the Rural Health Care program set
21 forth under subpart G of that part;

22 (E) the Remote Areas Fund set forth
23 under subpart J of that part;

1 (F) the Connect America Fund Broadband
2 Loop Support program set forth under subpart
3 K of that part;

4 (G) the Mobility Fund set forth under sub-
5 part L of that part; and

6 (H) the High Cost Loop Support for Rate-
7 of-Return Carriers program set forth under
8 subpart M of that part.

9 (b) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
10 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
11 General of the United States shall conduct a study and
12 submit to the Commission, the Committee on Commerce,
13 Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Com-
14 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
15 resentatives a report, which shall include—

16 (1) an analysis of the filing requirements for
17 covered carriers participating in a Universal Service
18 Fund program, including any filings required by the
19 Universal Service Administrative Company;

20 (2) an analysis of the financial impact of those
21 filing requirements on covered carriers participating
22 in a Universal Service Fund program; and

23 (3) recommendations, if any, on how to consoli-
24 date redundant filing requirements for covered car-

1 riers participating in a Universal Service Fund pro-
2 gram.

3 (c) RULEMAKING.—

4 (1) NEW OR ONGOING RULEMAKING.—Except
5 as provided in paragraph (2), not later than 30 days
6 after the date on which the report is submitted
7 under subsection (b), the Commission shall—

8 (A)(i) initiate a rulemaking to consolidate
9 redundant filing requirements for covered car-
10 riers participating in a Universal Service Fund
11 program; and

12 (ii) incorporate the recommendations de-
13 scribed in subsection (b)(3), if any, into the
14 rulemaking under clause (i) of this subpara-
15 graph, except to the extent that doing so would
16 violate the requirements of the Administrative
17 Procedure Act; or

18 (B) incorporate the recommendations de-
19 scribed in subsection (b)(3), if any, into an on-
20 going rulemaking relating to consolidating re-
21 dundant filing requirements of the Commission,
22 except to the extent that doing so would violate
23 the requirements of the Administrative Proce-
24 dure Act.

1 (2) PREVIOUS RULEMAKING.—Paragraph (1)
2 shall not apply if, on or before the date on which the
3 report is submitted under subsection (b), the Com-
4 mission completes a rulemaking to consolidate re-
5 dundant filing requirements for covered carriers par-
6 ticipating in a Universal Service Fund program.

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