

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish the Office of Public Safety Communications, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on

A BILL

To amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish the Office of Public Safety Communications, 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 “Public Safety Commu-
5 nications Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFE-**
2 **TY COMMUNICATIONS.**

3 Part A of the National Telecommunications and In-
4 formation Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C.
5 901 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 **“SEC. 106. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC**
8 **SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS.**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
10 the NTIA the Office of Public Safety Communications (in
11 this section referred to as ‘the Office’).

12 “(b) HEAD OF OFFICE.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of the Office
14 shall be the Associate Administrator for Public Safe-
15 ty Communications.

16 “(2) CAREER POSITION.—The position of Asso-
17 ciate Administrator shall be a career position in the
18 Senior Executive Service occupied by a career ap-
19 pointee (as that term is defined in section
20 3132(a)(4) of title 5, United States Code).

21 “(3) REQUIREMENT TO REPORT.—The Asso-
22 ciate Administrator shall report to the Assistant
23 Secretary.

24 “(c) DUTIES.—The Associate Administrator shall—

1 “(1) administer any grant program of the Fed-
2 eral Government related to Next Generation 9–1–1
3 on behalf of the Assistant Secretary;

4 “(2) analyze public safety policy communica-
5 tions issues, including by obtaining such analysis;

6 “(3) provide to the Assistant Secretary advice
7 and assistance with respect to the Assistant Sec-
8 retary—

9 “(A) carrying out the responsibilities of
10 NTIA related to public safety communications
11 policy; and

12 “(B) evaluating the domestic impact of
13 public safety communications matters pending
14 before the Commission, Congress, or other enti-
15 ties of the executive branch of the Federal Gov-
16 ernment;

17 “(4) carrying out any duties established under
18 section 10 of Department Organizational Order 25–
19 7 of the Department of Commerce titled ‘National
20 Telecommunications and Information Administra-
21 tion’, effective September 17, 2012; and

22 “(5) be responsible for the oversight of—

23 “(A) the studies carried out by the Federal
24 Government relating to enhancing public safety
25 communication; and

1 “(B) the prototyping (including leading
2 edge prototyping) and deployment by the Fed-
3 eral Government of advanced communications
4 technologies that enhance public safety commu-
5 nications, including through test-protocol,
6 model, or simulation tool for the testing and
7 validation of such technologies;

8 “(6) manage the First Responder Network Au-
9 thority established under section 6206 of the Middle
10 Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47
11 U.S.C. 1426), including by being responsible for the
12 oversight of the duties and responsibilities carried
13 out by the First Responder Network Authority;

14 “(7) at the direction of the Assistant Secretary,
15 communicate public safety communications policies
16 to public entities, including the Commission and
17 Congress, or private entities; and

18 “(8) carry out any duties regarding the respon-
19 sibilities of the NTIA with respect to public safety
20 communications policy as the Assistant Secretary
21 may designate.

22 “(d) AUDIT.—The Associate Administrator—

23 “(1) shall annually conduct an audit of the ac-
24 tivities of the First Responder Network Authority in

1 accordance with general accounting principles and
2 procedures; and

3 “(2) may conduct such audit (or parts thereof)
4 through a contractor whose services were procured
5 in accordance with title 41, United States Code.”.