

# Union Calendar No. 158

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1717

[Report No. 119-194]

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Mr. MENENDEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

JULY 10, 2025

Additional sponsor: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania

JULY 10, 2025

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

# **A BILL**

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, 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 “Communications Secu-  
5 rity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COUNCIL ON COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY, RELI-**  
7 **ABILITY, AND INTEROPERABILITY.**

8       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after  
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission  
10 shall—

11           (1) establish a council to advise the Commission  
12 on issues including the security, reliability, and  
13 interoperability of communications networks; or

14           (2) designate for purposes of this section an ad-  
15 visory committee of the Commission that is oper-  
16 ating on the date of the enactment of this Act under  
17 a charter for the purpose of addressing the issues  
18 described in paragraph (1) and, if the membership  
19 of such committee does not comply with subsection  
20 (b), modify such membership to comply with such  
21 subsection.

22       (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

23           (1) APPOINTMENT.—The members of the coun-  
24 cil shall be appointed by the Chair.

1           (2) COMPOSITION.—To the extent practicable,  
2 the membership of the council shall be composed of  
3 the following:

4           (A) Representatives of companies in the  
5 communications industry, except companies  
6 that are determined by the Chair to be not  
7 trusted.

8           (B) Representatives of public interest orga-  
9 nizations or academic institutions, except public  
10 interest organizations or academic institutions  
11 that are determined by the Chair to be not  
12 trusted.

13           (C) Representatives of the Federal Govern-  
14 ment, State governments, local governments, or  
15 Tribal Governments, with at least one member  
16 representing each such type of government.

17           (3) KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.—Each  
18 member of the council shall have knowledge and ex-  
19 perience relevant to the purpose and goals of the  
20 council.

21           (4) TERMS.—

22           (A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the  
23 council shall be appointed for a term of 2 years,  
24 except as provided in subparagraph (B).

1           (B) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed  
2           to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration  
3           of the term for which the member’s predecessor  
4           was appointed shall be appointed only for the  
5           remainder of that term. A member may serve  
6           after the expiration of that member’s term until  
7           a successor has taken office.

8           (c) REPORTS.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after  
10          the date on which the council is established or des-  
11          ignated (as the case may be) under subsection (a),  
12          and every 2 years thereafter, the council shall sub-  
13          mit to the Chair each report adopted by the council  
14          during the preceding 2-year period, and any report  
15          adopted by any working group of the council during  
16          such period, including any such report of the council  
17          or a working group containing recommendations on  
18          ways to increase the security, reliability, and inter-  
19          operability of communications networks, and on  
20          other relevant issues as appropriate.

21          (2) AVAILABILITY ON COMMISSION WEBSITE.—  
22          The Commission shall make each report submitted  
23          under paragraph (1) publicly available on the  
24          website of the Commission.

1 (d) DURATION.—Section 1013(a)(2) of title 5,  
2 United States Code (relating to the termination of advi-  
3 sory committees) shall not apply to the council.

4 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) CHAIR.—The term “Chair” means the  
6 Chair of the Commission.

7 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”  
8 means the Federal Communications Commission.

9 (3) COUNCIL.—The term “council” means the  
10 council established under subsection (a)(1) or the  
11 advisory committee designated under subsection  
12 (a)(2), as the case may be.

13 (4) NOT TRUSTED.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “not trusted”  
15 means, with respect to an entity, that—

16 (i) the Chair has made a public deter-  
17 mination that such entity is owned by, con-  
18 trolled by, or subject to the influence of a  
19 foreign adversary; or

20 (ii) the Chair otherwise determines  
21 that such entity poses a threat to the na-  
22 tional security of the United States.

23 (B) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION.—In  
24 making a determination under subparagraph  
25 (A)(ii), the Chair shall use the criteria de-

1           scribed in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section  
2           2(e) of the Secure and Trusted Communica-  
3           tions Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C.  
4           1601(c)), as appropriate.

5           (5) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-  
6           ing given such term in section 3 of the Communica-  
7           tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

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