

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5550

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations requiring providers of broadband service to state the aggregate price for such service and prohibiting providers of broadband service from charging certain fees, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

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

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## A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations requiring providers of broadband service to state the aggregate price for such service and prohibiting providers of broadband service from charging certain fees, 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 “Lower Internet Costs  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF AGGREGATE PRICE FOR**  
2 **BROADBAND SERVICE; CERTAIN FEES PRO-**  
3 **HIBITED.**

4 Title VII of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the  
6 following:

7 **“SEC. 723. STATEMENT OF AGGREGATE PRICE FOR**  
8 **BROADBAND SERVICE; CERTAIN FEES PRO-**  
9 **HIBITED.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
11 date of the enactment of this section, the Commission  
12 shall promulgate regulations that—

13 “(1) require a provider of broadband service—

14 “(A) to state the aggregate price for such  
15 service as a clear, easy-to-understand, and accu-  
16 rate single line item on the bill of a subscriber;  
17 and

18 “(B) if such provider communicates a price  
19 for such service in any promotional materials,  
20 to state the aggregate price for such service in  
21 a clear, easy-to-understand, and accurate man-  
22 ner in such materials; and

23 “(2) prohibit a provider of broadband service  
24 from charging a subscriber a covered fee.

25 “(b) REQUIREMENTS REGARDING STATEMENT OF  
26 AGGREGATE PRICE.—

1           “(1) ON BILL OF SUBSCRIBER.—With respect  
2           to the statement on the bill of a subscriber described  
3           in subsection (a)(1)(A) (including a bill for a legacy  
4           or grandfathered broadband service plan that is no  
5           longer generally available to new customers), the  
6           regulations promulgated under subsection (a)  
7           shall—

8                   “(A) if the aggregate price stated is intro-  
9                   ductory or otherwise limited to a period of time,  
10                  require the provider of broadband service to  
11                  state on the bills provided to such subscriber  
12                  approximately 60 days and 30 days before the  
13                  end of such period—

14                           “(i) either—

15                                   “(I) the length of such period; or

16                                   “(II) the date on which such pe-  
17                                  riod will end and the price charged  
18                                  will change; and

19                                   “(ii) the price that will be charged  
20                                  after the end of such period; and

21                           “(B) permit the provider of broadband  
22                           service to complement the aggregate price stat-  
23                           ed with an itemized explanation of the elements  
24                           that compose such aggregate price.

1           “(2) IN PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS.—With re-  
2           spect to the statement in any promotional materials  
3           described in subsection (a)(1)(B), the regulations  
4           promulgated under subsection (a) shall—

5                   “(A) if the aggregate price stated is intro-  
6                   ductory or otherwise limited to a period of time,  
7                   require the provider of broadband service to  
8                   state in such materials—

9                           “(i) the price that will be charged  
10                           after the end of such period (calculated on  
11                           the date on which such materials are made  
12                           available to consumers); and

13                           “(ii) the length of such period and the  
14                           length of time for which the price de-  
15                           scribed in clause (i) will be charged;

16                   “(B) if part of the aggregate price stated  
17                   fluctuates based on service location, require the  
18                   provider of broadband service to state where  
19                   and how a consumer may obtain the aggregate  
20                   price specific to such consumer (such as elec-  
21                   tronically or by contacting a customer service or  
22                   sales representative);

23                   “(C) permit the provider of broadband  
24                   service to complement the aggregate price stat-

1 ed with an itemized explanation of the elements  
2 that compose such aggregate price; and

3 “(D) specify that the requirements in such  
4 regulations with respect to such statement do  
5 not apply with respect to legacy or grand-  
6 fathered broadband service plans that are no  
7 longer generally available to new customers.

8 “(3) EXCLUSIONS FROM AGGREGATE PRICE.—

9 The regulations promulgated under subsection (a)  
10 shall specify other charges related to the provision of  
11 broadband service (such as taxes, administrative  
12 fees, and equipment fees) that are not charged for  
13 the broadband service itself and are not required to  
14 be included in the aggregate price stated under such  
15 regulations.

16 “(4) APPLICATION TO BUNDLED SERVICES.—

17 The regulations promulgated under subsection (a)  
18 shall provide that, if a provider of broadband service  
19 bills for or promotes broadband service as part of a  
20 bundle with other services—

21 “(A) the statements described in sub-  
22 section (a)(1) are required with respect to any  
23 charges for such bundle that are specific to  
24 broadband service; and

1           “(B) the prohibition on charging a covered  
2           fee under subsection (a)(2) applies with respect  
3           to all services that are part of such bundle.

4           “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5           “(1) BROADBAND SERVICE.—The term  
6           ‘broadband service’ has the meaning given the term  
7           ‘broadband internet access service’ in section 8.1(b)  
8           of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any suc-  
9           cessor regulation).

10          “(2) COVERED FEE.—The term ‘covered fee’  
11          means, with respect to a fee charged by a provider  
12          of broadband service, the following:

13               “(A) A fee to cover the cost of compliance  
14               with State regulations and programs (commonly  
15               known as a ‘State cost recovery charge’).

16               “(B) A fee to cover the cost of maintain-  
17               ing, building, or operating the network of such  
18               provider (commonly known as a ‘network access  
19               and maintenance fee’, ‘internet cost recovery  
20               fee’, ‘broadband cost recovery fee’, or ‘network  
21               enhancement fee’).

22               “(C) A fee imposed by a local government  
23               on such provider to compensate such local gov-  
24               ernment for use of a public right-of-way (com-  
25               monly known as a ‘local access fee’).

1           “(D) A fee for the cost of technical sup-  
2           port or repair of equipment (commonly known  
3           as a ‘tech assure fee’).

4           “(E) Any other fee determined by the  
5           Commission to be charged for a purpose similar  
6           to a purpose described in any of subparagraphs  
7           (A) through (D).”.

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