

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7386

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 21, 2026

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

To amend the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation
Act of 2012 to reauthorize the First Responder Network
Authority, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act
4 of 2026”.

5 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
6 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Reauthorization of First Responder Network Authority.
- Sec. 3. Authority of NTIA over First Responder Network Authority.
- Sec. 4. Board of First Responder Network Authority.
- Sec. 5. Associate Administrator.
- Sec. 6. Components of nationwide public safety broadband network.
- Sec. 7. Flexibility in establishing fee amounts.
- Sec. 8. Reports to Congress on First Responder Network Authority.
- Sec. 9. Business continuity and disaster recovery plan.
- Sec. 10. Outage notifications.
- Sec. 11. Submission to Congress of FirstNet contract.
- Sec. 12. Definitions.

7 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF FIRST RESPONDER NET-**
8 **WORK AUTHORITY.**

9 Section 6206 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job
10 Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1426) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (f), by striking “the date that
12 is 15 years after the date of enactment of this title”
13 and inserting “September 30, 2037”; and

14 (2) in subsection (g)—

15 (A) by striking “Not later than 10 years
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act”
17 and inserting “Not later than 7 years after the
18 date of the enactment of the First Responder
19 Network Authority Reauthorization Act of
20 2026”;

1 (B) by striking “15-year sunset” and in-
 2 serting “termination”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:
 4 “Such report shall also contain recommenda-
 5 tions for Congress and the NTIA regarding
 6 preparations for the expiration of any contract
 7 between the First Responder Network Author-
 8 ity and the FirstNet contractor with respect to
 9 building, operating, or maintaining the nation-
 10 wide public safety broadband network.”.

11 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF NTIA OVER FIRST RESPONDER NET-**
 12 **WORK AUTHORITY.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title VI of the Mid-
 14 dle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47
 15 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.) is amended—

16 (1) in section 6204(a), by striking “as an inde-
 17 pendent authority”;

18 (2) in section 6206—

19 (A) by redesignating subsections (d), (e),
 20 (f), and (g) as subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h),
 21 respectively;

22 (B) by inserting after subsection (c) the
 23 following:

24 “(d) ACTIONS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF NTIA.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any action taken by the
2 First Responder Network Authority shall be subject
3 to the approval of the NTIA.

4 “(2) MANNER OF APPROVAL.—

5 “(A) PRIOR APPROVAL.—Except as pro-
6 vided in subparagraph (B), the First Responder
7 Network Authority may not take an action un-
8 less the NTIA has provided prior approval for
9 such action.

10 “(B) ACTIONS FOR WHICH PRIOR AP-
11 PROVAL NOT REQUIRED.—The First Responder
12 Network Authority may take any of the fol-
13 lowing actions without prior approval by the
14 NTIA:

15 “(i) Deploying emergency response ca-
16 pabilities and resources to emergencies and
17 disasters.

18 “(ii) Setting strategic priorities and
19 conducting planning activities with respect
20 to the nationwide public safety broadband
21 network.

22 “(iii) Maintaining and updating the
23 First Responder Network Authority Stra-
24 tegic Plan and Roadmap or a similar docu-
25 ment with respect to the growth, evolution,

1 and advancement of the nationwide public
2 safety broadband network.

3 “(iv) Establishing performance expecta-
4 tions and investment priorities with re-
5 spect to the nationwide public safety
6 broadband network.

7 “(v) Developing and adopting the an-
8 nual budget of the First Responder Net-
9 work Authority and outlining all network
10 reinvestment decisions and task orders
11 with respect to the nationwide public safe-
12 ty broadband network.

13 “(vi) Making written recommenda-
14 tions to the NTIA for action upon network
15 reinvestment decisions and task orders
16 with respect to the nationwide public safe-
17 ty broadband network.

18 “(vii) Managing the device and appli-
19 cation ecosystem with respect to the na-
20 tionwide public safety broadband network.

21 “(viii) Receiving reports from the
22 Public Safety Advisory Committee or other
23 advisory committees established by the
24 First Responder Network Authority.

1 “(ix) Communicating with and con-
2 ducting outreach to public safety entities
3 and public safety professionals.

4 “(x) Reporting to and briefing Con-
5 gress, in accordance with this subtitle.

6 “(xi) Such other actions as the NTIA
7 may specify.

8 “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing
9 in this paragraph may be construed to alter the
10 requirement of subsection (c) of section 6208
11 that fees may only be assessed under such sec-
12 tion if approved by the NTIA.”; and

13 (C) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated),
14 by striking “subsection (f)” and inserting “sub-
15 section (g)”; and

16 (3) in section 6208(d)—

17 (A) by striking “The First Responder Net-
18 work Authority” and inserting the following:

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The First Responder Net-
20 work Authority”; and

21 (B) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(2) NTIA ACTION ON NETWORK REINVEST-
23 MENT DECISIONS AND TASK ORDERS.—Not later
24 than 60 days after the date on which the NTIA re-
25 ceives a written recommendation from the First Re-

1 sponder Network Authority for action upon a net-
2 work reinvestment decision or task order with re-
3 spect to the nationwide public safety broadband net-
4 work, the NTIA shall take action upon such network
5 reinvestment decision or task order.”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 6205(b)(2)
7 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of
8 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1425(b)(2)) is amended by striking “If”
9 and inserting “Subject to section 6206(d), if”.

10 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
11 section shall apply with respect to—

12 (1) except as provided in paragraph (2) of this
13 subsection, actions taken by the First Responder
14 Network Authority on or after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this Act; and

16 (2) in the case of paragraph (2) of section
17 6208(d) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job
18 Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1428(d)), as added
19 by this section, written recommendations received by
20 the National Telecommunications and Information
21 Administration on or after the date of the enactment
22 of this Act.

1 **SEC. 4. BOARD OF FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHOR-**
2 **ITY.**

3 (a) PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS.—Section
4 6204(b)(2)(A) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job
5 Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1424(b)(2)(A)) is
6 amended by amending clause (iv) to read as follows:

7 “(iv) ensure that, on and after the
8 date that is 3 years after the date of the
9 enactment of the First Responder Network
10 Authority Reauthorization Act of 2026, the
11 Board includes not fewer than 5 individ-
12 uals serving as State, local, or Tribal pub-
13 lic safety professionals in the fields of fire
14 response services, emergency medical serv-
15 ices, emergency management services, law
16 enforcement, or 9–1–1 services.”.

17 (b) STAGGERED TERMS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6204(c)(2) of the
19 Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of
20 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1424(c)(2)) is amended—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “3
22 years” and inserting “not more than 3 years”;
23 and

24 (B) by amending subparagraph (D) to
25 read as follows:

1 “(D) STAGGERED TERMS.—In making ap-
 2 pointments under subsection (b)(1)(D), the Sec-
 3 retary of Commerce shall ensure that the terms
 4 of office of individuals so appointed are stag-
 5 gered, as the Secretary considers appropriate to
 6 reduce the likelihood that the terms of office of
 7 more than 4 such individuals will expire at the
 8 same time.”.

9 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made
 10 by this subsection shall apply with respect to ap-
 11 pointments made on or after the date of the enact-
 12 ment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 5. ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6204 of the Middle Class
 15 Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C.
 16 1424) is amended by adding at the end the following:

17 “(h) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The First Responder Net-
 19 work Authority shall have an Associate Adminis-
 20 trator, who shall be a career appointee (as defined
 21 in section 3132(a) of title 5, United States Code) in
 22 the Senior Executive Service and who shall be ap-
 23 pointed by the Assistant Secretary from among 3 in-
 24 dividuals nominated by the Board. The Assistant
 25 Secretary shall make such appointment under the

1 merit procedures applicable to appointing such ca-
2 reer appointees under subchapter II of chapter 31 of
3 such title 5.

4 “(2) DUTIES.—The Associate Administrator
5 shall do the following:

6 “(A) Subject to the direction of the Board
7 and approval by the Assistant Secretary under
8 section 6206(d), manage the staff and oper-
9 ations of the First Responder Network Author-
10 ity in order to ensure that the duties and re-
11 sponsibilities of the First Responder Network
12 Authority are carried out.

13 “(B) Serve as a liaison between the Board
14 and the Assistant Secretary, including with re-
15 spect to ensuring compliance by the First Re-
16 sponder Network Authority with section
17 6206(d).

18 “(3) ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS.—The
19 NTIA, in consultation with the Chair of the Board
20 and any committee of the Board relating to govern-
21 ance and risk, shall conduct an annual performance
22 review of the Associate Administrator.”.

23 (b) CONTINUATION IN OFFICE.—The individual serv-
24 ing as the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
25 of the First Responder Network Authority on the day be-

1 fore the date of the enactment of this Act may serve as
2 the Associate Administrator under subsection (h) of sec-
3 tion 6204 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation
4 Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1424), as added by subsection
5 (a), on and after such date of enactment without the need
6 for appointment under such subsection (h).

7 **SEC. 6. COMPONENTS OF NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY**
8 **BROADBAND NETWORK.**

9 Section 6202(b) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and
10 Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1422(b)) is amend-
11 ed, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking
12 “and initially consists of” and inserting “and consists of
13 such technologies and services as necessary to enable se-
14 cure, interoperable, resilient, and prioritized broadband
15 communications for public safety entities, including”.

16 **SEC. 7. FLEXIBILITY IN ESTABLISHING FEE AMOUNTS.**

17 Section 6208(b) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and
18 Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1428(b)) is amend-
19 ed—

20 (1) by inserting “(or other period specified by
21 the First Responder Network Authority)” after “for
22 each fiscal year”; and

23 (2) by striking “the fiscal year involved” and
24 inserting “such fiscal year (or other period)”.

1 **SEC. 8. REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON FIRST RESPONDER**
2 **NETWORK AUTHORITY.**

3 (a) ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN
4 FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY AUDIT RE-
5 PORT.—Section 6209(b)(2) of the Middle Class Tax Relief
6 and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1429(b)(2)) is
7 amended—

8 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; and”
9 and inserting a semicolon;

10 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period
11 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

13 “(D) an evaluation of the performance of
14 the FirstNet contractor under the contract in
15 building, operating, and maintaining the nation-
16 wide public safety broadband network.”.

17 (b) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Subtitle B of
18 title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation
19 Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.), as amended by the
20 preceding provisions of this Act, is further amended by
21 adding at the end the following:

22 **“SEC. 6214. ANNUAL REPORTS ON FIRST RESPONDER NET-**
23 **WORK AUTHORITY.**

24 “(a) REPORT ON NETWORK MATTERS.—The NTIA
25 shall submit to Congress an annual report that includes
26 information on cyberattacks, cyber defense efforts, and

1 unscheduled service outages of all causes with respect to
2 the nationwide public safety broadband network. Each
3 such annual report—

4 “(1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
5 but may contain a classified annex; and

6 “(2) at the request of the Board, shall include
7 a statement from the Board with respect to such in-
8 formation.

9 “(b) REPORT ON ADOPTION RATES.—The NTIA
10 shall submit to Congress an annual report on adoption
11 rates, by profession and geographic area, with respect to
12 the nationwide public safety broadband network that, at
13 the request of the Board, shall include a statement from
14 the Board with respect to such adoption rates.”.

15 (c) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—Subtitle B of title VI of the
16 Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012
17 (47 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.), as amended by the preceding
18 provisions of this Act, is further amended by adding at
19 the end the following:

20 **“SEC. 6215. ANNUAL BRIEFINGS ON FIRST RESPONDER**
21 **NETWORK AUTHORITY.**

22 “Not later than 1 year after the date of the enact-
23 ment of this section, and annually thereafter, the NTIA
24 shall provide to the Committee on Energy and Commerce
25 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on

1 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a
2 briefing on activities with respect to the First Responder
3 Network Authority that, at the request of the Board, shall
4 include the participation of the Chair of the Board (or
5 a designee thereof).”.

6 **SEC. 9. BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND DISASTER RECOVERY**
7 **PLAN.**

8 Subtitle B of title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief
9 and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.),
10 as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is fur-
11 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

12 **“SEC. 6216. BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND DISASTER RECOV-**
13 **ERY PLAN.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after
15 the date of the enactment of this section, and every 5
16 years thereafter, the FirstNet contractor shall submit to
17 the NTIA for approval, and to the Board for review, a
18 business continuity and disaster recovery plan to ensure
19 rapid restoration of the nationwide public safety
20 broadband network following an outage resulting from a
21 natural disaster or other emergency.

22 “(b) TIMING OF APPROVAL OR REQUEST FOR RE-
23 SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date on
24 which the NTIA receives a plan submitted under this sec-
25 tion, the NTIA, in consultation with the Board, shall—

1 “(1) approve such plan; or

2 “(2) provide to the FirstNet contractor a writ-
3 ten notice of—

4 “(A) the reasoning for not approving such
5 plan; and

6 “(B) the timeframe and process, as deter-
7 mined by the NTIA, for resubmitting such plan
8 for approval.”.

9 **SEC. 10. OUTAGE NOTIFICATIONS.**

10 Subtitle B of title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief
11 and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.),
12 as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is fur-
13 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

14 **“SEC. 6217. OUTAGE NOTIFICATIONS.**

15 “In the case of any unscheduled service outage with
16 respect to the nationwide public safety broadband net-
17 work—

18 “(1) as soon as practicable, but not later than
19 30 minutes, after the FirstNet contractor has con-
20 firmed such outage, the FirstNet contractor shall
21 notify the First Responder Network Authority of
22 such outage; and

23 “(2) the FirstNet contractor shall provide to
24 the departments and agencies that use such network

1 a network status tool that provides timely informa-
2 tion on such outage.”.

3 **SEC. 11. SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS OF FIRSTNET CON-**
4 **TRACT.**

5 Subtitle B of title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief
6 and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.),
7 as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is fur-
8 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

9 **“SEC. 6218. SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS OF FIRSTNET CON-**
10 **TRACT.**

11 “Not later than 7 days after receiving a request, in
12 writing, from the Chair and Ranking Member of the Com-
13 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives, or from the Chair and Ranking Member of
15 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
16 of the Senate, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to such
17 Committee any contract between the First Responder Net-
18 work Authority and the FirstNet contractor with respect
19 to building, operating, or maintaining the nationwide pub-
20 lic safety broadband network.”.

21 **SEC. 12. DEFINITIONS.**

22 Section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job
23 Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401) is amended—

6 “(15) FIRSTNET CONTRACTOR.—The term
7 ‘FirstNet contractor’ means the entity that, under
8 contract with the First Responder Network Author-
9 ity, builds, operates, and maintains the nationwide
10 public safety broadband network.”.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.