

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 187

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to prescribe rules to lower market entry barriers for small business, business concerns owned by women and members of minority groups, and nonprofit entities that are seeking to provide telecommunication services and information services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 1995

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to prescribe rules to lower market entry barriers for small business, business concerns owned by women and members of minority groups, and nonprofit entities that are seeking to provide telecommunication services and information services.

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. COMPETITION BY SMALL BUSINESS AND MI-**
4 **NORITY-OWNED BUSINESS CONCERNS.**

5 Title II of the Communications Act of 1934 is
6 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 235. POLICY AND RULEMAKING TO PROMOTE DIVER-**
2 **SITY OF OWNERSHIP.**

3 “(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

4 “(1) in furtherance of the purposes of this Act
5 to make available to all people of the United States
6 a rapid and efficient communications service, and
7 for the purposes of promoting a diversity of opinion
8 in the broadcasting service, the Commission has es-
9 tablished regulations and policies to promote owner-
10 ship of broadcasting services by members of minority
11 groups;

12 “(2) these regulations have served to promote
13 more vigorous communications on public issues, to
14 broaden the number and variety of stakeholders in
15 the American economy, and to promote innovation
16 by and creativity by Americans of different cultures
17 and national origins, and thereby have served to
18 build a more cohesive and productive society;

19 “(3) while the Commission has adopted regula-
20 tions to promote participation by businesses owned
21 by members of minority groups and women, and
22 small businesses, in auctions for certain spectrum-
23 based services which promote diversity of ownership
24 in those services, no other regulations have been es-
25 tablished to promote such diversity of participation
26 in the provision of common carrier services or in the

1 provision of other telecommunications and informa-
2 tion services;

3 “(4) the goals of competitively priced services,
4 service innovation, employment, and diversity of
5 viewpoint can be advanced by promoting market-
6 place penetration by small business concerns, busi-
7 ness concerns owned by women and members of mi-
8 nority groups, and nonprofit entities; and

9 “(5) it should be the policy of the Commission
10 to promote whenever possible diversity of ownership
11 in the provision of information services and tele-
12 communication services by such concerns and enti-
13 ties.

14 “(b) RULEMAKING REQUIRED.—Within 1 year after
15 the date of enactment of this section, the Commission, in
16 consultation with the National Telecommunications and
17 Information Administration, shall initiate a rulemaking
18 proceeding for the purpose of lowering market entry bar-
19 riers for small business, business concerns owned by
20 women and members of minority groups, and nonprofit
21 entities that are seeking to provide telecommunication
22 services and information services. The proceeding shall
23 seek to provide remedies for, among other things, lack of
24 access to capital and technical and marketing expertise on
25 the part of such concerns and entities. Consistent with the

1 broad policy and finding set forth in subsection (a), the
2 Commission shall adopt such regulations and make such
3 recommendations to Congress as the Commission deems
4 appropriate. Not later than 2 years after the date of enact-
5 ment of this section, the Commission shall complete the
6 proceeding required by this subsection.”.

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