

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 500

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 in order to require the Federal Communications Commission to fulfill the sufficient universal service support requirements for high cost areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2001

Mr. BURNS (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. DORGAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 in order to require the Federal Communications Commission to fulfill the sufficient universal service support requirements for high cost areas, 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 “Universal Service Sup-
5 port Act”.

1 **SEC. 2 REMOVAL OF IMPEDIMENTS TO SUFFICIENT SUP-**
2 **PORT MECHANISMS.**

3 Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 is
4 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “(m) REMOVAL OF IMPEDIMENTS TO SUFFICIENT
7 SUPPORT MECHANISMS.—

8 “(1) REMOVAL OF CAPS ON HIGH COST SUP-
9 PORT MECHANISMS.—The caps and limitations on
10 universal service support contained in sections
11 36.601(c), and 36.621(4) and 54.305 of the Com-
12 mission’s regulations (47 CFR 36.601, [etc]) shall
13 cease to be effective on the date of enactment of the
14 Universal Service Support Act. The Commission
15 shall not, on or after such date of enactment, en-
16 force or reimpose caps or limitations on support
17 mechanisms for rural telephone companies or ex-
18 changes they acquire based on fund size or other
19 considerations unrelated to the sufficiency of support
20 to achieve the purposes of this section.

21 “(2) HIGH COST SUPPORT AND NATIONWIDE
22 AVERAGE CALCULATIONS.—The Commission shall—

23 “(A) calculate that portion of the high cost
24 support mechanism attributable to loops that
25 have costs that are in excess of 115 percent of
26 the nationwide average under section 36.631 of

1 the Commission’s regulations (47 CFR 36.631)
2 as in effect on the date of enactment of the
3 Universal Service Support Act; and
4 “(B) calculate the nationwide average
5 unseparated loop cost for purposes of sections
6 36.621 (a)(1)–(3) and 36.622 of those regula-
7 tions (47 CFR 36.621 and 36.622) as in effect
8 on such date of enactment of such Act, taking
9 into account the elimination of caps and limita-
10 tions of support pursuant to paragraph (1) of
11 this subsection.”.

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