

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6055

To require the Federal Communications Commission to establish requirements and issue a nationwide public safety broadband license, to establish a grant program to fund administrative and operational costs of the licensee, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2008

Ms. HARMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require the Federal Communications Commission to establish requirements and issue a nationwide public safety broadband license, to establish a grant program to fund administrative and operational costs of the licensee, 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 “Public Safety
5 Broadband Authorization Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND LICENSE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Communications
3 Commission shall modify the nationwide license issued
4 under the Communications Act of 1934 to the Public Safe-
5 ty Broadband Licensee (“PSBL”) for the use of the
6 broadband segment of the spectrum allocated for public
7 safety services under section 337(a)(1) of such Act (47
8 U.S.C. 337(a)(1)) as required by subsection (b).

9 (b) LICENSE REQUIREMENTS.—The license under
10 subsection (a) shall require, at a minimum, that the
11 PSBL—

12 (1) collaborate with a commercial entity to es-
13 tablish a nationwide, interoperable broadband public
14 safety communications network;

15 (2) be broadly representative of the public safe-
16 ty community;

17 (3) operate as a not-for-profit organization;

18 (4) have no participation in its management by
19 commercial entities or interests;

20 (5) submit an annual budget to the Commission
21 that includes both projected expenditures and in-
22 come; and

23 (6) submit a report to the Commission, the
24 Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House
25 of Representatives, and the Committee on Com-
26 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate

1 not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal
2 year documenting all income and expenditures made
3 in such fiscal year.

4 **SEC. 3. GRANT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL**
5 **COSTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make
7 grants, not to exceed \$1,000,000 per fiscal year for each
8 of fiscal years 2009 and 2010, to the PSBL to fund ad-
9 ministrative and operational costs.

10 (b) BUDGET REQUIRED.—Prior to making a grant
11 under subsection (a), the Commission shall review and ap-
12 prove the budget submitted under section (2)(b)(5).

13 (c) GRANT RESTRICTIONS.—Upon receipt of grant
14 funds under this section, the PSBL shall not—

15 (1) receive any payments from any entity in
16 each fiscal year covered by such grant funds; and

17 (2) use any grant funds received to pay any
18 debts that the PSBL had incurred before the receipt
19 of such grant funds.

20 (d) USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—Any sums ap-
21 propriated to the Commission pursuant to this Act for
22 which the Commission does not make grants under this
23 section shall be used by the Commission to promote the
24 establishment of a nationwide, interoperable broadband
25 public safety communications network.

1 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

3 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” re-
4 fers to the Federal Communications Commission.

5 (2) PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND LICENSEE.—
6 The term “Public Safety Broadband Licensee” or
7 “PSBL” has the meaning given the term in section
8 90.7 of the Commission’s rules (47 C.F.R. 90.7) as
9 in effect on May 1, 2008.

10 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Com-
12 mission to carry out this Act \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal
13 years 2009 and 2010.

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