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NewsClips

November 18, 2020

Columbus Dispatch
Columbus residents cite monthly service and device costs as barriers to the internet

The House on Tuesday unanimously passed bipartisan legislation appropriating \$750 million towards building out U.S. fifth generation, or 5G, network technology as a way to combat potential threats from foreign-made equipment.

The USA Telecommunications Act, [introduced](#) in both the House and Senate earlier this year, would set aside the funds as part of a grant program overseen by the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The funds would be used to support the deployment and use of 5G networks in the United States.

The bill would establish an advisory committee that would include the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and other federal agencies as well as representatives from the public and private sectors to advise on the grant funding. A report on the current state of the 5G supply chain would also be required to be submitted within 180 days of the bill becoming law.

The bill's primary sponsors in the House are Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman [Frank Pallone](#) (D-N.J.), ranking member [Greg Walden](#) (R-Ore.), and Reps. [Brett Guthrie](#) (R-Ky.) and [Doris Matsui](#) (D-Calif.). Acting Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman [Marco Rubio](#) (R-Fla.), vice chairman [Mark Warner](#) (D-Va.), and multiple other bipartisan senators introduced a Senate version in January.

Pallone said on the House floor Tuesday that the bill was essential for "spurring a domestic market for network equipment, and that is something we desperately need." He pointed to concerns over Chinese telecommunications companies Huawei and ZTE and the need to compete domestically against these groups, which the Trump administration has taken extensive steps against due to national security concerns. "We must support alternatives to companies like Huawei and ZTE," Pallone said. "Today most network equipment is produced by a handful of companies that provide a soup to nut solution, locking our networks into one single vendor at a time. That makes it hard for new competitors to break into the market, and currently there are no American vendors for the network equipment that fuels our wireless economy."

Walden also praised the passage of the bill, saying on the House floor that it would "help put the United States at the helm of network security, ensuring that communications providers have a secure, diverse, and competitive marketplace of trusted equipment suppliers for their next generation networks." "Congress needs to act, we need to do all we can to ensure the United States supports a capitalism of competition between trusted vendors, and today's bill does just that," Walden added.

A previous bill sponsored by the same four bipartisan House sponsors that was [signed into law](#) by [President Trump](#) in March. The legislation bans U.S. companies from using federal funds to buy Huawei equipment, and also provided \$1 billion to help small rural telecom groups rip out Huawei equipment and replace it. – *The Hill*

Washington Post
A covid-fighting tool is buried in your phone. Turn it on.

CNBC
The NFL will hold a virtual Pro Bowl this year, with players competing in the Madden video game

Philadelphia Inquirer
Pa. imposes a broader mask mandate as officials try to stem a surge in virus hospitalizations

Williamsport Sun-Gazette

During Tuesday's Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg called on Congress to pass regulations that would require tech platforms to issue regular transparency reports, laying out the actions they've taken on violative content. "That way, the people who are responsible for holding all of us accountable, whether it's journalists, Congress, academics, could have an apples-to-apples comparison about how all the different companies are doing," Zuckerberg said. He also suggested that such a law "require that companies even maintain a certain level of effectiveness."

That level of detail was new for Zuckerberg, who has, in the past, called for Section 230 to be modified to increase transparency, but has stopped short of saying exactly what he believes such transparency should look like. Facebook already releases intermittent transparency reports, showing not only the amount of content it's taking action on, but also what percentage of that content is caught by automatic filters, what percentage of it is appealed and what percentage is restored upon appeal.

Such a scientific dissection of these actions is complex even for a company of Facebook's size. It would be far more challenging for smaller platforms, leading some to argue that Zuckerberg's proposal is, in and of itself, anticompetitive. "This is why he wants to make it a requirement for everyone. The resources it would require from smaller platforms is now a competitive advantage for Facebook," Ifeoma Ozoma, a former Facebook policy staffer, [tweeted Tuesday](#). "Him saying it would provide apples to apples comparisons is wrong. Also, [without] context, removal numbers are useless." – Protocol

Judge gives lawyers more time to present evidence

More than 6.9 million Pennsylvania voters cast ballots in the 2020 election, and when all is said and done, the turnout may be record-setting, state officials say. The number of voters surpassed the turnout in every presidential election since at least 1960, according to the Pennsylvania Department of State. Nearly 71% of Pennsylvania's voting age population cast ballots, which appears to be a new high mark for the Keystone State, the department said Tuesday. Four years ago, about 6.1 million voters cast ballots, according to state figures.

President-elect Joe Biden won Pennsylvania and his victory in the Keystone State helped deliver the electoral votes needed to win the election. President Donald Trump continues to pursue legal challenges here and in other states. As of Tuesday night, Biden leads Trump by about 73,000 votes in Pennsylvania, or about 1 percentage point. Almost all of the provisional ballots have been counted. Nearly 82,000 of the more than 100,000 provisional ballots cast at the polls have been counted, state officials said Tuesday.

Counties are also making progress on counting the roughly 28,000 military and overseas ballots, the state department said. Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar delighted in the vote turnout numbers. "I am thrilled with the voter engagement and record turnout in this year's election, which truly reflects the vitality of our democracy," Boockvar said in a statement. "It is also a powerful credit to Pennsylvania's dedicated election officials and poll workers, who worked incredibly hard to run a free, fair and secure election with no significant issues while contending with a pandemic, new mail-in ballot procedures and what is apparently the highest voter turnout in commonwealth history."

More than 2.6 million voters cast ballots by mail, about 10 times the previous high for voting by mail. A 2019 law gave voters the ability to vote by mail without having to explain why they couldn't go to the polls. With the coronavirus pandemic, many voters opted to cast ballots by mail. In federal court in Williamsport Tuesday, [Trump's personal lawyer Rudolph Giuliani](#) continued the president's challenge of the validity of Pennsylvania's election results. State, local and federal officials have insisted the election was fair and secure. The Trump campaign's other legal challenges in Pennsylvania and other states have proven largely unsuccessful.

Some Republican lawmakers have criticized Boockvar's oversight of the election and have called for her resignation. GOP lawmakers, who control the General Assembly, have called for an audit of the election, citing inconsistent guidance to counties. Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf has consistently defended Boockvar. More than 9 million people are now registered to vote in Pennsylvania, a record figure. While the turnout exceeded four years ago, the figures show more than 2 million registered voters didn't participate in the election. – ***Pennlive***

