

*Hassan Substitute**Maggie Hiron*

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 2d Sess.**S. 2418**

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations that establish a national standard for determining whether mobile and broadband services available in rural areas are reasonably comparable to those services provided in urban areas.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO)

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Reasonable and
5 Comparable Wireless Access Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF MOBILE BROADBAND SERVICE IN**
7 **UNDERSERVED RURAL AREAS.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section:

1 (A) COMMISSION.—The term “Commis-
2 sion” means the Federal Communications Com-
3 mission.

4 (B) RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY.—The
5 term “rural telephone company” has the mean-
6 ing given the term in section 3 of the Commu-
7 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

8 (C) SERVICE AREA.—The term “service
9 area” has the meaning given the term in sec-
10 tion 214(e) of the Communications Act of 1934
11 (47 U.S.C. 214(e)).

12 (2) MOBILE BROADBAND SERVICE.—The Com-
13 mission shall define the term “mobile broadband
14 service” for purposes of this section.

15 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD.—

16 (1) COMMENCEMENT OF RULEMAKING.—Not
17 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of
18 this Act, the Commission shall commence a rule-
19 making to establish a national standard to deter-
20 mine, with respect to access to universal service in
21 rural, insular, and high cost areas under section
22 254(b)(3) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
23 U.S.C. 254(b)(3)), whether mobile broadband service
24 available in rural areas is reasonably comparable to
25 mobile broadband service provided in urban areas.

1 (2) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not less frequently
2 than once every 180 days after commencing the
3 rulemaking under paragraph (1), the Commission
4 shall submit to Congress a report on the progress of
5 the Commission in establishing the standard under
6 that paragraph.

7 (c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing a standard
8 under subsection (b), the Commission shall consider—

9 (1) defining a rural area as any area—

10 (A) in which a school or library designated
11 as “rural” under section 54.505(b)(3)(i) of title
12 47, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on
13 the date of enactment of this Act, is located; or

14 (B) that is a service area that is served by
15 a rural telephone company;

16 (2) defining a rural area as underserved, with
17 respect to mobile broadband service, if mobile
18 broadband service that meets or exceeds the stand-
19 ard established under subsection (b) is not available
20 in the area; and

21 (3) providing that a rural area shall be consid-
22 ered underserved, with respect to mobile broadband
23 service, if tests show that the average speed and sig-
24 nal strength of mobile broadband service available in
25 the area do not meet or exceed the average speed

1 and signal strength of mobile broadband service pro-
2 vided in the 20 most populous metropolitan statis-
3 tical areas in the United States.

4 (d) DATA FROM URBAN AREAS.—To help inform the
5 standard established under subsection (b), the Commis-
6 sion shall gather, and periodically update, data on mobile
7 broadband service provided in the 20 most populous met-
8 ropolitan statistical areas in the United States.