

Spectrum and National Security Act

Section-by-Section Summary

Section 1 – Short Title; Table of Contents.

This Act may be cited as the “Spectrum and National Security Act.”

Section 2 – Sense of Congress

Expresses the sense of Congress that spectrum is a scarce, valuable resource critical for U.S. global technological leadership and national security. Establishes the importance of improving interagency spectrum management, reinstating FCC spectrum auction authority, and investing in advanced spectrum technologies such as dynamic spectrum sharing.

Section 3 – Definitions

Defines terms used throughout the bill.

TITLE 1 – DEVELOPMENT OF SPECTRUM MAXIMIZING TECHNOLOGIES

Sec. 101—National Spectrum Research and Development Plan.

Directs NTIA, in coordination with other agencies, to establish both a national testbed for dynamic spectrum sharing and a public-private collaborative framework for coordination between federal and non-federal entities for purposes of spectrum management. Further directs NTIA to promote the development of advanced spectrum-sharing technologies. Directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop a National Spectrum Research and Development Plan that identifies key innovation areas for spectrum R&D. Sets aside spectrum revenues to fund research and development for dynamic spectrum sharing and other technologies.

Sec. 102—Common sharing platform; incumbent informing capability.

Directs NTIA to establish and implement—after consulting with federal agencies and non-federal stakeholders—a capability, known as “incumbent informing capability,” to securely manage harmful interference between non-federal and incumbent federal users, or among federal users, that are sharing a band of spectrum.

TITLE II – EXERTING U.S. SPECTRUM LEADERSHIP

Sec. 201—Empowering federal agencies in the management of their spectrum.

Restores control over interagency spectrum management process by codifying procedures on November 13, 2023 Presidential Memorandum on Modernizing United States Spectrum Policy and Establishing a National Spectrum Strategy. Establishes procedures for and places responsibilities on NTIA regarding interagency coordination to develop the position of the executive branch on issues related to spectrum, including processes for resolving spectrum disputes among agencies and unforeseen harmful interference by commercial users to federal operations. Directs NTIA to establish a charter for a Spectrum Advisory Council to oversee spectrum coordination among federal entities. Requires all federal entities to coordinate with NTIA before carrying out any spectrum compatibility studies or testing plans for consideration in formulating the views of the executive branch regarding spectrum regulation.

Sec. 202—Under Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

Promotes NTIA Administrator from Assistant Secretary to Under Secretary. This change ensures that NTIA can have a seat at the table for international spectrum negotiations.

TITLE III – CREATION OF A SPECTRUM PIPELINE

Sec. 301—Creation of a spectrum pipeline.

Directs NTIA and co-lead agencies to perform a feasibility assessment of whether spectrum in the 7.125 to 8.5 GHz band can be made available for non-federal use, shared federal and non-federal use, or a combination thereof. Directs NTIA and co-lead agencies to perform a feasibility assessment of shared Federal and non-Federal use in the 37 to 37.6 GHz band. Further directs NTIA and co-lead agencies, in performing these studies, to coordinate with federal entities with equities in these or adjacent bands, and to report to Congress and the FCC on its findings in these required studies and any future studies of spectrum bands.

Sec. 302—Spectrum auctions.

Directs the FCC to complete an auction of new licenses for the 12.7 to 13.25 GHz band within three years, by December 30, 2027.

TITLE IV – EXTENSION OF FCC AUCTION AUTHORITY

Sec. 401—Extension of FCC auction authority.

Extends the FCC’s spectrum auction authority to by five years, to September 30, 2029.

TITLE V – WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 501—Short title.

Sections 502 and 503 may be cited as the “IMPACT Act.”

Sec. 502—Definitions.

Defines several terms used throughout this title.

Sec. 503—Program.

Directs NTIA to establish the Telecommunications Workforce Training Grant Program to award grants to minority-serving institutions that work with telecommunications partners to develop programs to train students to participate in the telecommunications or electromagnetic spectrum workforce. Establishes program requirements including timeline, recipient oversight, and reports to Congress.

Sec. 504—National Spectrum Workforce Plan.

Directs NTIA to develop a National Spectrum Workforce Plan, after receiving input from federal and non-federal stakeholders, to strengthen the spectrum ecosystem workforce.

TITLE VI – SPECTRUM AUCTION TRUST FUND

Sec. 601—Definition.

Defines the term “covered auction” as used in this title.

Sec. 602—Deposit of Proceeds.

Establishes how the proceeds from any covered auction will be deposited, including, as appropriate: In the Spectrum Relocation Fund to cover 110 percent of relocation or sharing costs, shared with licensees pursuant to the terms of an incentive auction, to the Spectrum Auction Trust Fund, and to the general fund of the Treasury.

Sec. 603— Spectrum Auction Trust Fund.

Establishes the Spectrum Auction Trust Fund in the Treasury, into which a dedicated amount of covered auction proceeds will be deposited to fund certain telecommunications programs up to the following amounts: \$3.08 billion to fund the Rip and Replace program; \$2 billion to fund technology hubs; \$500 million to fund the Telecommunications Workforce Training Grant Program; \$25 million to fund NTIA and Department of Defense spectrum research and development; \$2 billion to fund Next Generation 911, \$7 billion to fund the Affordable Connectivity Program, \$3 billion for the CHIPS and Science Act's semiconductor manufacturing incentive grants, \$5 billion to fund research consistent with other authorizations in the CHIPS and Science Act, and \$200 million to the Minority Serving Institutions Program. Deposits other proceeds to the general fund of the Treasury for deficit reduction.

TITLE VII – SECURE AND TRUSTED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

Sec. 701—Increase in limitation on expenditure.

Increases the expenditure limit for the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program to \$4,980,000,000.

TITLE VIII – NEXT GENERATION 9–1–1

Sec. 801—Further Deployment and Coordination of Next Generation 9–1–1.

Authorizes NTIA to administer the Next Generation 911 (NG911) grant program and assist entities with their implementation plans. Requires NTIA to establish an NG911 Cybersecurity Center to coordinate with state and local governments on the sharing of cybersecurity information to detect and prevent cybersecurity intrusions. Requires NTIA to establish a Public Safety NG911 Advisory Board made up of public safety officials and professionals.

TITLE IX – MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS PROGRAM

Sec. 901—Definitions.

Defines several terms used throughout this title.

Sec. 902—Program.

Authorizes NTIA to establish a pilot program providing grants to digital equity nonprofits to work with Minority Serving Institutions, including Tribal communities, to prepare funding applications for BEAD and digital equity programs created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.