

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To encourage spectrum licensees to make unused spectrum available for use by rural and smaller carriers in order to expand wireless coverage.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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## A BILL

To encourage spectrum licensees to make unused spectrum available for use by rural and smaller carriers in order to expand wireless coverage.

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 “Rural Spectrum Acces-  
5 sibility Act of 2015”.

6        **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF LICENSES.**

7        Section 307 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
8 U.S.C. 307) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
9 lowing:

1 “(g) EXTENSION OF LICENSES.—

2 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this  
4 subsection—

5 “(i) the term ‘rural area’ means any  
6 area other than—

7 “(I) an area described in clause  
8 (i) or (ii) of section 343(a)(13)(A) of  
9 the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
10 velopment Act (7 U.S.C.  
11 1991(a)(13)(A)); and

12 “(II) a city, town, or incor-  
13 porated area that has a population of  
14 greater than 20,000 inhabitants; and

15 “(ii) the term ‘small carrier’ means a  
16 carrier with not more than 1,500 employ-  
17 ees.

18 “(B) CALCULATION OF NUMBER OF EM-  
19 PLOYEES.—For purposes of subparagraph  
20 (A)(ii), the number of employees of a carrier  
21 shall be determined in accordance with section  
22 121.106 of title 13, Code of Federal Regula-  
23 tions, or any successor thereto.

24 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later  
25 than 90 days after the date of enactment of Rural

1       Spectrum Accessibility Act of 2015, the Commission  
2       shall establish a program under which a carrier that  
3       receives a license under this section may partition or  
4       disaggregate the license in order to make unused  
5       spectrum available to small carriers or carriers serv-  
6       ing a rural area.

7               “(3) EXTENSION OF LICENSE TERM.—Any car-  
8       rier that receives a license under this section and  
9       participates in the program established under para-  
10      graph (2) shall receive a 3-year extension of the li-  
11      cense granted under this section.”.