

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4283

To require Federal agencies with jurisdiction over broadband deployment to enter into an interagency agreement related to certain types of funding for broadband deployment.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Mr. PENCE (for himself and Mr. VISCLOSKY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## A BILL

To require Federal agencies with jurisdiction over broadband deployment to enter into an interagency agreement related to certain types of funding for broadband deployment.

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 “Broadband Inter-  
5 agency Coordination Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.**

7 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1           (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered  
2 agency” means—

3           (A) the Federal Communications Commis-  
4 sion;

5           (B) the Department of Agriculture; and

6           (C) the National Telecommunications and  
7 Information Administration.

8           (2) HIGH-COST PROGRAMS.—The term “high-  
9 cost programs” means—

10           (A) the programs for Universal Service  
11 Support for High-Cost Areas set forth under  
12 subpart D of part 54 of title 47, Code of Fed-  
13 eral Regulations, or any successor thereto;

14           (B) the Remote Areas Fund set forth  
15 under subpart J of part 54 of title 47, Code of  
16 Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto;

17           (C) the Interstate Common Line Support  
18 Mechanism for Rate-of-Return Carriers set  
19 forth under subpart K of part 54 of title 47,  
20 Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor  
21 thereto;

22           (D) the Mobility Fund set forth under sub-  
23 part L of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal  
24 Regulations, or any successor thereto; and

1           (E) the High Cost Loop Support for Rate-  
2           of-Return Carriers program set forth under  
3           subpart M of part 54 of title 47, Code of Fed-  
4           eral Regulations, or any successor thereto.

5           (b) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—Not later than 180  
6           days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of  
7           each covered agency shall enter into an interagency agree-  
8           ment requiring coordination between the covered agencies  
9           for the distribution of funds for broadband deployment  
10          under—

11           (1) the high-cost programs;

12           (2) the programs administered by the Rural  
13           Utilities Service of the Department of Agriculture;  
14           and

15           (3) the programs administered by the National  
16           Telecommunications and Information Administra-  
17           tion.

18           (c) REQUIREMENTS.—In entering into an interagency  
19           agreement with respect to the programs described in sub-  
20           section (b), the head of each covered agency shall—

21           (1) require that the covered agencies share in-  
22           formation with each other about existing or planned  
23           projects that have received or will receive funds  
24           under the programs described in subsection (b) for  
25           new broadband deployment;

1 (2) provide that—

2 (A) subject to subparagraph (B), upon re-  
3 quest from another covered agency with author-  
4 ity to award or authorize any funds for new  
5 broadband deployment in a project area, a cov-  
6 ered agency shall provide the other covered  
7 agency with any information the covered agency  
8 possesses regarding, with respect to the project  
9 area—

10 (i) each entity that provides  
11 broadband service in the area;

12 (ii) levels of broadband service pro-  
13 vided in the area, including the speed of  
14 broadband service and the technology pro-  
15 vided;

16 (iii) the geographic scope of  
17 broadband service coverage in the area;  
18 and

19 (iv) each entity that has received or  
20 will receive funds under the programs de-  
21 scribed in subsection (b) to provide  
22 broadband service in the area; and

23 (B) if a covered agency designates any in-  
24 formation provided to another covered agency  
25 under subparagraph (A) as confidential, the

1 other covered agency shall protect the confiden-  
2 tiality of that information;

3 (3) designate the Federal Communications  
4 Commission as the entity primarily responsible for—

5 (A) coordinating among the covered agen-  
6 cies; and

7 (B) storing or maintaining access to all  
8 broadband deployment data;

9 (4) consider basing the distribution of funds for  
10 broadband deployment under the programs described  
11 in subsection (b) on standardized data regarding  
12 broadband coverage; and

13 (5) provide that the interagency agreement  
14 shall be updated periodically, except that the scope  
15 of the agreement with respect to the Federal Com-  
16 munications Commission may not expand beyond the  
17 high-cost programs.

18 (d) ASSESSMENT OF AGREEMENT.—

19 (1) PUBLIC COMMENT.—Not later than 1 year  
20 after entering into the interagency agreement re-  
21 quired under subsection (b), the Federal Commu-  
22 nications Commission shall seek public comment  
23 on—

1 (A) the effectiveness of the interagency  
2 agreement in facilitating efficient use of funds  
3 for broadband deployment;

4 (B) the availability of Tribal, State, and  
5 local data regarding broadband deployment and  
6 the inclusion of that data in interagency coordi-  
7 nation; and

8 (C) modifications to the interagency agree-  
9 ment that would improve the efficacy of inter-  
10 agency coordination.

11 (2) ASSESSMENT; REPORT.—Not later than 18  
12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
13 Federal Communications Commission shall—

14 (A) review and assess the comments re-  
15 ceived under paragraph (1); and

16 (B) submit to the Committee on Com-  
17 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-  
18 ate and the Committee on Energy and Com-  
19 merce of the House of Representatives a report  
20 detailing any findings and recommendations  
21 from the assessment conducted under subpara-  
22 graph (A).

○