

H.R. 427, The Connect America Fund (CAF) Accountability Act
Section by Section

Section 1. Short Title.

Sets forth the short title of the bill as the “Connect America Fund Accountability Act of 2019.”

Section 2. Reporting Requirements for Connect America Fund.

Requires covered telecommunications carriers (CTCs) to include certain additional information in their speed and latency reports to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Currently, CAF recipients are required by the FCC to report on the speeds and latency provided to consumers within their service areas. Reports are to be sent to the FCC on a quarterly basis.

Testing

In accordance with the requirements of existing and future FCC rules and regulations on CAF performance testing, this section requires that CAF recipients include the method of performance testing they chose to undertake each quarter (Measuring Broadband America, ping testing (off the shelf), or self-testing.)

Further, a CTC that chooses to use self-testing software for performance testing must, once every three years, report information on its self-testing algorithms and/or processes to the FCC under this section. This section also requires that a CTC that tests one or more customer locations more than twice during a calendar year report those customer locations to the FCC.

To encourage the use of representative sampling in speed testing, this section requires that a CTC should ensure that each test includes a representative number of residences and businesses in the CAF service area included in each report. This section defines a CTC as a CAF recipient that provides fixed broadband Internet access service.

Audits

Currently, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) undertakes audits of reports from CAF recipients.

This section requires that, in determining whether or not to conduct an audit of a CTC, USAC consider the number and frequency of complaints submitted to the FCC for the broadband service of a carrier. This section also requires that audits conducted by USAC be made available to the public.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to Erica Barker in my office at 202-225-9893.