

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

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

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to establish a Telecommunications Workforce Development Advisory Council within the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to establish a Telecommunications Workforce Development Advisory Council within the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes.

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 “Telecommunications  
5 Opportunities for Workers Engaging in Real Infrastruc-  
6 ture Deployment Act of 2019” or the “TOWER Infra-  
7 structure Deployment Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKFORCE DEVELOP-**  
2 **MENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

3 Part I of title III of the Communications Act of 1934  
4 (47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 344. TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKFORCE DEVELOP-**  
7 **MENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

9 “(1) the term ‘Advisory Council’ means the  
10 Telecommunications Workforce Development Advi-  
11 sory Council established under subsection (b);

12 “(2) the term ‘communications facility installa-  
13 tion’ has the meaning given the term in section  
14 6409(d) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job  
15 Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(d)); and

16 “(3) the term ‘minority institution’ has the  
17 meaning given the term in section 365 of the Higher  
18 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067k).

19 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
20 the Commission a Telecommunications Workforce Devel-  
21 opment Advisory Council.

22 “(c) DUTIES.—The Advisory Council shall advise the  
23 Commission on, and develop recommendations with re-  
24 spect to—

1           “(1) the needs of the workforce in the commu-  
2           nications industry to promote the deployment of  
3           communications facility installations;

4           “(2) ways to encourage participation in indus-  
5           try-led workforce development programs; and

6           “(3) ways to improve workforce development in  
7           the communications industry.

8           “(d) MEMBERS.—

9           “(1) COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL.—The Advisory  
10          Council shall be composed of members appointed  
11          under paragraph (2) and shall include not less than  
12          1 member representing each of the following:

13                 “(A) The Telecommunications Industry  
14                 Registered Apprenticeship Program.

15                 “(B) The National Telecommunications  
16                 and Information Administration.

17                 “(C) A State agency.

18                 “(D) A local agency.

19                 “(E) A Tribal agency.

20                 “(F) The communications industry.

21                 “(G) A minority institution.

22          “(2) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Not later than  
23          90 days after the date of enactment of this section,  
24          the Chairman of the Commission shall appoint mem-  
25          bers to serve on the Advisory Council.

1           “(3) TERM.—Each member appointed under  
2 paragraph (2) shall serve on the Advisory Council  
3 until the date on which the Advisory Council termi-  
4 nates under subsection (f).

5           “(4) CHAIR.—The Chairman of the Commission  
6 shall designate a member of the Advisory Council to  
7 serve as Chair of the Advisory Council.

8           “(5) VACANCY.—A vacancy in the Advisory  
9 Council shall be filled in the manner in which the  
10 original appointment was made.

11           “(6) COMPENSATION.—The members of the Ad-  
12 visory Council shall serve without compensation.

13           “(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
14 of enactment of this section, the Advisory Council shall  
15 submit a report containing the recommendations devel-  
16 oped under subsection (c) to—

17           “(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
18 Transportation of the Senate;

19           “(2) the Committee on Health, Education,  
20 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

21           “(3) the Committee on Energy and Commerce  
22 of the House of Representatives; and

23           “(4) the Committee on Education and Labor of  
24 the House of Representatives.

1       “(f) TERMINATION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL.—Not-  
2 withstanding section 14 of the Federal Advisory Com-  
3 mittee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), the Advisory Council shall ter-  
4 minate on March 1, 2024.”.