



AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 1st Sess.

AMENDMENT N^o 2162

To _____ By Thune _____ safety

P _____ To: Amo No 2137 _____ es.

Re _____ _____ and

||

Page(s)

GPO: 2020 42-568 (mac)

AM Thune (Tester, Moran, Peters, & King) by _____ to the amendment (No. 2137) proposed by Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN)

Viz:

- 1 At the end of division F, insert the following:
- 2 **TITLE VI—TELECOMMUNI-**
- 3 **CATIONS INDUSTRY WORK-**
- 4 **FORCE**
- 5 **SEC. 60601. SHORT TITLE.**
- 6 This title may be cited as the “Telecommunications
- 7 Skilled Workforce Act”.

1 **SEC. 60602. TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERAGENCY WORK-**
2 **ING GROUP.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of title III of the Commu-
4 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 344. TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERAGENCY WORK-**
7 **ING GROUP.**

8 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘tele-
9 communications interagency working group’ means the
10 interagency working group established under subsection
11 (b)(1).

12 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
14 after the date of enactment of this section, the
15 Chairman of the Commission, in partnership with
16 the Secretary of Labor, shall establish within the
17 Commission an interagency working group to de-
18 velop recommendations to address the workforce
19 needs of the telecommunications industry, including
20 the safety of that workforce.

21 “(2) DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT.—The tele-
22 communications interagency working group shall be
23 considered established on the date on which a major-
24 ity of the members of the working group have been
25 appointed, consistent with subsection (d).

1 “(c) DUTIES.—In developing recommendations under
2 subsection (b), the telecommunications interagency work-
3 ing group shall—

4 “(1) determine whether, and if so how, any
5 Federal laws, regulations, guidance, policies, or prac-
6 tices, or any budgetary constraints, may be amended
7 to strengthen the ability of institutions of higher
8 education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher
9 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) or for-
10 profit businesses to establish, adopt, or expand pro-
11 grams intended to address the workforce needs of
12 the telecommunications industry, including the work-
13 force needed to build and maintain the 5G wireless
14 infrastructure necessary to support 5G wireless tech-
15 nology;

16 “(2) identify potential policies and programs
17 that could encourage and improve coordination
18 among Federal agencies, between Federal agencies
19 and States, and among States, on telecommuni-
20 cations workforce needs;

21 “(3) identify ways in which existing Federal
22 programs, including programs that help facilitate the
23 employment of veterans and military personnel
24 transitioning into civilian life, could be leveraged to

1 help address the workforce needs of the tele-
2 communications industry;

3 “(4) identify ways to improve recruitment in
4 workforce development programs in the tele-
5 communications industry;

6 “(5) identify Federal incentives that could be
7 provided to institutions of higher education, for-prof-
8 it businesses, State workforce development boards
9 established under section 101 of the Workforce In-
10 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111), or
11 other relevant stakeholders to establish or adopt new
12 programs, expand current programs, or partner with
13 registered apprenticeship programs, to address the
14 workforce needs of the telecommunications industry,
15 including such needs in rural areas;

16 “(6) identify ways to improve the safety of tele-
17 communications workers, including tower climbers;
18 and

19 “(7) identify ways that trends in wages, bene-
20 fits, and working conditions in the telecommuni-
21 cations industry impact recruitment of employees in
22 the sector.

23 “(d) MEMBERS.—The telecommunications inter-
24 agency working group shall be composed of the following

1 representatives of Federal agencies and relevant non-Fed-
2 eral industry and labor stakeholder organizations:

3 “(1) A representative of the Department of
4 Education, appointed by the Secretary of Education.

5 “(2) A representative of the National Tele-
6 communications and Information Administration,
7 appointed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce
8 for Communications and Information.

9 “(3) A representative of the Commission, ap-
10 pointed by the Chairman of the Commission.

11 “(4) A representative of a registered appren-
12 ticeship program in construction or maintenance, ap-
13 pointed by the Secretary of Labor.

14 “(5) A representative of a telecommunications
15 industry association, appointed by the Chairman of
16 the Commission.

17 “(6) A representative of an Indian Tribe or
18 Tribal organization, appointed by the Chairman of
19 the Commission.

20 “(7) A representative of a rural telecommuni-
21 cations carrier, appointed by the Chairman of the
22 Commission.

23 “(8) A representative of a telecommunications
24 contractor firm, appointed by the Chairman of the
25 Commission.

1 “(9) A representative of an institution of higher
2 education described in section 371(a) of the Higher
3 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)), ap-
4 pointed by the Secretary of Education.

5 “(10) A public interest advocate for tower
6 climber safety, appointed by the Secretary of Labor.

7 “(11) A representative of the Directorate of
8 Construction of the Occupational Safety and Health
9 Administration, appointed by the Secretary of
10 Labor.

11 “(12) A representative of a labor organization
12 representing the telecommunications workforce, ap-
13 pointed by the Secretary of Labor.

14 “(e) NO COMPENSATION.—A member of the tele-
15 communications interagency working group shall serve
16 without compensation.

17 “(f) OTHER MATTERS.—

18 “(1) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—The tele-
19 communications interagency working group shall
20 name a chair and a vice chair, who shall be respon-
21 sible for organizing the business of the working
22 group.

23 “(2) SUBGROUPS.—The chair and vice chair of
24 the telecommunications interagency working group,
25 in consultation with the other members of the tele-

1 communications interagency working group, may es-
2 tablish such subgroups as necessary to help conduct
3 the work of the telecommunications interagency
4 working group.

5 “(3) SUPPORT.—The Commission and the Sec-
6 retary of Labor may detail employees of the Com-
7 mission and the Department of Labor, respectively,
8 to assist and support the work of the telecommuni-
9 cations interagency working group, though such a
10 detailee shall not be considered to be a member of
11 the working group.

12 “(g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

13 “(1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1
14 year after the date on which the telecommunications
15 interagency working group is established, the work-
16 ing group shall submit a report containing its rec-
17 ommendations to address the workforce needs of the
18 telecommunications industry to—

19 “(A) the Committee on Commerce,
20 Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

21 “(B) the Committee on Health, Education,
22 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

23 “(C) the Committee on Energy and Com-
24 merce of the House of Representatives;

1 “(D) the Committee on Education and
2 Labor of the House of Representatives;

3 “(E) the Department of Labor; and

4 “(F) the Commission.

5 “(2) MAJORITY SUPPORT.—The telecommuni-
6 cations interagency working group may not submit
7 the report under paragraph (1) unless the report has
8 the support of not less than the majority of the
9 members of the working group.

10 “(3) VIEWS.—The telecommunications inter-
11 agency working group shall—

12 “(A) include with the report submitted
13 under paragraph (1) any concurring or dis-
14 senting view offered by a member of the work-
15 ing group; and

16 “(B) identify each member to whom each
17 concurring or dissenting view described in sub-
18 paragraph (A) should be attributed.

19 “(4) PUBLIC POSTING.—The Commission and
20 the Secretary of Labor shall make a copy of the re-
21 port submitted under paragraph (1) available to the
22 public on the websites of the Commission and the
23 Department of Labor, respectively.

1 “(h) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACCA.—The Federal
2 Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply
3 to the telecommunications interagency working group.”.

4 (b) SUNSET.—Section 344 of the Communications
5 Act of 1934, as added by subsection (a), shall be repealed
6 on the day after the date on which the interagency work-
7 ing group established under subsection (b)(1) of that sec-
8 tion submits the report to Congress under subsection (g)
9 of that section.

10 **SEC. 60603. TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKFORCE GUID-**
11 **ANCE.**

12 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
13 of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, in partnership with
14 the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commis-
15 sion, shall establish and issue guidance on how States can
16 address the workforce needs and safety of the tele-
17 communications industry, including guidance on how a
18 State workforce development board established under sec-
19 tion 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
20 (29 U.S.C. 3111) can—

21 (1) utilize Federal resources available to States
22 to meet the workforce needs of the telecommuni-
23 cations industry;

- 1 (A) current need; and
- 2 (B) projected need, if Congress enacts leg-
- 3 islation that accelerates broadband infrastruc-
- 4 ture construction in the United States; and
- 5 (2) the wireless infrastructure needed to sup-
- 6 port 5G wireless technology.