

FIRSTNET REAUTHORIZATION

H.R. 7386

The FirstNet Authority is the only dedicated nationwide broadband network for our nation's first responders. This legislation extends the FirstNet Authority through Fiscal Year 2037 and makes structural changes to the Authority.

Background

FirstNet was established at the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission Report to develop the first and only nationwide, high-speed broadband network dedicated to public safety.

Currently, the authorization for the FirstNet Authority, the federal agency overseeing the FirstNet network, is scheduled to sunset in 2027. H.R. 7386 extends the FirstNet Authority through fiscal year 2037.

Additionally, the legislation changes how the Authority is governed by creating an associate administrator role within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to support oversight of its operations.

H.R. 7386 also expands the presence of public safety professionals on the FirstNet Board and strengthens the Authority's capacity to establish strategic priorities for the network and to efficiently oversee the devices and applications operating within the FirstNet ecosystem.

[GAO has noted that Congress should reauthorize FirstNet.](#)

Ask

- ▶ Support the bill's passage into law in the 119th Congress to protect public safety communication.

Talking Points

▶ Ensuring Reliable Communications

Reauthorizing FirstNet guarantees that first responders have a reliable, dedicated network to communicate quickly during emergencies, even when commercial networks are overloaded.

▶ Improving Safety for First Responders

FirstNet helps keep first responders safer by enabling coordination in dangerous situations and developing purpose-built technology for public safety.

▶ Improving Disaster Response

FirstNet's network has vastly improved public safety communications at numerous major disasters, including hurricanes, wildfires, building collapses and more.

▶ Maximizing Cost Efficiency with Public-Private Partnerships

The reinvestment fee framework and spectrum sale proceeds that fund FirstNet help to ensure buy-in from stakeholders and effective use of revenues.

