

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 517

AN ACT

To promote consumer choice and wireless competition by
permitting consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices,
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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Unlocking Consumer
3 Choice and Wireless Competition Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. REPEAL OF EXISTING RULE AND ADDITIONAL**
5 **RULEMAKING BY LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.**

6 (a) REPEAL AND REPLACE.—As of the date of the
7 enactment of this Act, paragraph (3) of section 201.40(b)
8 of title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, as amended and
9 revised by the Librarian of Congress on October 28, 2012,
10 pursuant to the Librarian’s authority under section
11 1201(a) of title 17, United States Code, shall have no
12 force and effect, and such paragraph shall read, and shall
13 be in effect, as such paragraph was in effect on July 27,
14 2010.

15 (b) RULEMAKING.—The Librarian of Congress, upon
16 the recommendation of the Register of Copyrights, who
17 shall consult with the Assistant Secretary for Communica-
18 tions and Information of the Department of Commerce
19 and report and comment on his or her views in making
20 such recommendation, shall determine, consistent with the
21 requirements set forth under section 1201(a)(1) of title
22 17, United States Code, whether to extend the exemption
23 for the class of works described in section 201.40(b)(3)
24 of title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, as amended by
25 subsection (a), to include any other category of wireless
26 devices in addition to wireless telephone handsets. The de-

1 termination shall be made in the first rulemaking under
2 section 1201(a)(1)(C) of title 17, United States Code, that
3 begins on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

4 (c) UNLOCKING AT DIRECTION OF OWNER.—Cir-
5 cumvention of a technological measure that restricts wire-
6 less telephone handsets or other wireless devices from con-
7 necting to a wireless telecommunications network—

8 (1)(A) as authorized by paragraph (3) of sec-
9 tion 201.40(b) of title 37, Code of Federal Regula-
10 tions, as made effective by subsection (a); and

11 (B) as may be extended to other wireless de-
12 vices pursuant to a determination in the rulemaking
13 conducted under subsection (b); or

14 (2) as authorized by an exemption adopted by
15 the Librarian of Congress pursuant to a determina-
16 tion made on or after the date of enactment of this
17 Act under section 1201(a)(1)(C) of title 17, United
18 States Code,

19 may be initiated by the owner of any such handset or other
20 device, by another person at the direction of the owner,
21 or by a provider of a commercial mobile radio service or
22 a commercial mobile data service at the direction of such
23 owner or other person, solely in order to enable such owner
24 or a family member of such owner to connect to a wireless

1 telecommunications network, when such connection is au-
2 thorized by the operator of such network.

3 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as expressly provided
5 herein, nothing in this Act shall be construed to
6 alter the scope of any party’s rights under existing
7 law.

8 (2) LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.—Nothing in this
9 Act alters, or shall be construed to alter, the author-
10 ity of the Librarian of Congress under section
11 1201(a)(1) of title 17, United States Code.

12 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

13 (1) COMMERCIAL MOBILE DATA SERVICE; COM-
14 Mercial MOBILE RADIO SERVICE.—The terms
15 “commercial mobile data service” and “commercial
16 mobile radio service” have the respective meanings
17 given those terms in section 20.3 of title 47, Code
18 of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of
19 the enactment of this Act.

20 (2) WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS NET-
21 WORK.—The term “wireless telecommunications net-
22 work” means a network used to provide a commer-
23 cial mobile radio service or a commercial mobile data
24 service.

1 (3) WIRELESS TELEPHONE HANDSETS; WIRE-
2 LESS DEVICES.—The terms “wireless telephone
3 handset” and “wireless device” mean a handset or
4 other device that operates on a wireless tele-
5 communications network.

Passed the Senate July 15, 2014.

Attest:

Secretary.

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