

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2703

To require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the Department of Commerce to conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing a satellite-based educational network to provide educational programming to African children.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 1993

Mr. FIELDS of Texas (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the Department of Commerce to conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing a satellite-based educational network to provide educational programming to African children.

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 “Mickey Leland Tele-
5 communications and Education Assistance to Africa Act
6 of 1993”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) During his decade serving Texas and the
4 Nation in the United States House of Representa-
5 tives, George T. “Mickey” Leland led tireless efforts
6 on behalf of the world’s hungry and downtrodden.

7 (2) The late Congressman Leland’s vision of a
8 different world transformed his determination to al-
9 leviate world hunger into a passion that led to the
10 establishment of the Select Committee on Hunger in
11 1984.

12 (3) George T. “Mickey” Leland provided the
13 poor of Africa, especially the children, with special
14 compassion, inspiration, and leadership at great per-
15 sonal risk.

16 (4) Africa continues to have one of the lowest
17 per capita income rates and highest starvation rates.

18 (5) Satellite technology is an important means
19 of providing quality education to children and adults
20 in remote areas and is an affordable delivery system
21 to transmit quality programming.

22 (6) A coordinated satellite delivery system for
23 educational instruction will improve the competitive-
24 ness of Africa, especially among its children.

25 (7) Satellite technology can provide access to
26 the vast educational resources of the world and help

1 ensure that the next generation of African children
2 have the tools they need to better their futures.

3 **SEC. 3. STUDY REQUIRED.**

4 Part B of the National Telecommunications and In-
5 formation Administration Organization Act is amended by
6 adding at the end the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 136. STUDY AND REPORT ON SATELLITE-BASED EDU-
8 CATIONAL NETWORK FOR AFRICAN CHIL-
9 DREN.**

10 “(a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—Within 6 months following
11 enactment of this section, the National Telecommuni-
12 cations and Information Administration shall conduct a
13 feasibility study identifying the opportunities, facilities,
14 programming and other resources necessary for establish-
15 ment of networks using modern telecommunications tech-
16 nologies for the purpose of providing educational and
17 other training essential to ensure growth and opportuni-
18 ties in Africa. The study shall pay particular attention to
19 the educational needs of, and opportunities to address
20 those needs, in rural and remote areas. In conducting such
21 study, the National Telecommunications and Information
22 Administration shall identify resources and programs of
23 governmental, nongovernmental, and multinational agen-
24 cies that may be deployed promptly and economically. The
25 study shall identify any legal, procedural, or technical im-

1 pediments to the establishment of such a network or net-
2 works and the appropriate steps to remove such impedi-
3 ments.

4 “(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—The National Tele-
5 communications and Information Administration shall
6 submit to the President and the Congress a report on the
7 results of the study required by subsection (a). The Na-
8 tional Telecommunications and Information Administra-
9 tion shall include in such report any legislative or adminis-
10 trative actions required to promote the establishment of
11 such a network.

12 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated \$285,000 to carry out
14 this section.”

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