

## **Digital GAP Act of 206 Section-by-Section Summary**

**Sec. 1. Short Title.** The “Digital Global Access Policy Act of 2016” or the “Digital GAP Act.”

**Sec. 2. Purpose.** To encourage the efforts of developing countries to improve mobile and fixed access to the internet in order to spur economic growth and job creation, improve health, education, and financial services, mitigate disasters, reduce poverty and gender inequality, promote democracy and good governance, and strengthen cybersecurity and update the Department of State’s structure to address cyberspace policy.

**Sec. 3. Findings.** 4.2 billion people, 60 percent of the world’s population, remain offline. The growth rate of internet access is slowing. The offline population is largely low-income, female, elderly, illiterate, and rural, and 75 percent live in only 20 countries. Without increased internet access, the developing world risks falling behind.

**Sec. 4. Statement of Policy.** Establishes the policy of the United States to promote first-time internet access to mobile or broadband internet for at least 1.5 billion people in developing countries by 2020 in both urban and rural areas; promote internet deployment, capacity building, and build-once approaches by standardizing the inclusion of broadband conduit pipes which house fiber optic communications cable as part of rights-of-way projects, including sewers, power transmission facilities, rail, pipelines, bridges, tunnels, and roads that are funded, co-funded, or partially financed by the United States or any international organization that includes the United States as a member, in consultation with telecommunications providers, unless a cost-benefit analysis determines that the cost outweighs the benefits.

**Sec. 5. Department of State organization.** Expresses the sense of Congress that the title of the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment should be changed to the Under Secretary for Economics, Energy, the Environment, and Cyberspace and that the Secretary of State should designate an Assistant Secretary for Technology, International Communications, and Cyberspace to lead diplomatic cyberspace policy for internet access, internet governance, internet freedom, telecommunications networks, information and communications technology infrastructures, and cyber security.

**Sec. 6. USAID.** Expresses the sense of Congress that USAID should integrate efforts to expand internet access, develop appropriate technologies, and enhance digital literacy into the education, development and economic growth programs of the agency.

**Sec. 7. Peace Corps.** Expresses the sense of Congress that Peace Corps should develop positions for Volunteers that are focused on leveraging technology for development, education, and social and economic mobility.

**Sec. 8. Leveraging international support.** Requires the President to direct United States representatives to appropriate international bodies to use the influence of the United States, consistent with the broad development goals of the United States, to advocate that each such body commit to increase efforts to promote gender-equitable internet access, in partnership with stakeholders and consistent with host countries’ absorptive capacity; standardize a build-

once approach to including broadband conduit as part of infrastructure projects; promote and protect human rights online, such as the freedoms of speech, assembly, association, religion, and belief, and the right to privacy, through resolutions, public statements, projects, and initiatives, and advocating that other member states of such bodies are held accountable when major violations are uncovered.

**Sec. 9. Partnership Framework.** Requires the President to submit a report on efforts to promote partnerships by United States development agencies to provide internet access or internet infrastructure in developing countries.

**Sec. 10. Reporting requirement on implementation efforts.** Requires the President to transmit a report on efforts to implement the policy specified in section 4.

**Sec. 11. Cyberspace Strategy.** Requires the President to include in the next White House Cyberspace Strategy information relating to methods to promote internet access in developing countries; methods to globally promote cybersecurity policy consistent with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity; and methods to promote global internet freedom principles, such as the freedoms of expression, assembly, association, and religion, and the right to privacy, while combating efforts to impose restrictions on such freedoms and right.

**Sec. 12. Definitions.** Defines the term “stakeholders” to mean the private sector, the public sector, cooperatives, civil society, the technical community that develops internet technologies, standards, implementation, operations, and applications, and other groups that are working to increase internet access or are impacted by the lack of internet access in their communities.

Defines the term “cyberspace” to mean the interdependent network of information technology infrastructures, and includes the internet, telecommunications networks, computer systems, and embedded processors and controllers in critical industries and includes the virtual environment of information and interactions between people.