

I agree with the basic concept of increasing the number of amateur radio operators by making the entry-level license more attractive to prospective amateurs. However, I disagree with the provision of this proposal which instantly upgrades the current Technician and Technician Plus licensees to General Class. People value what they have to work for, and providing an instant upgrade will not put more people of the high frequency bands or add to the ranks of active radio amateurs.

Under the last restructuring, the Commission took great strides to ensure no one received "something for nothing." This part of the proposal does grant "something for nothing."

I believe a more equitable proposal would be to convert all Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus licenses into the new entry-level license. The proposed privileges far exceed what those licensees are granted under the current system. When that licensee wishes to upgrade, they take the General Class exam. None of the people proposing to eliminate the Morse Code requirement complain the theory test is too difficult. In addition, those Technician and Technician Plus licensees have not been tested on some of the concepts unique to HF operation. It makes no sense to grant privileges to them without testing on those concepts.

I do not see a problem with instantly upgrading Advanced Class licensees. This exam was far more difficult than the previous Extra Class exam.