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Today's News

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE changes could pave path for Goodlatte to take gavel from Smith, lawmakers and lobbyists say. (P. 1)

MOBILE PRIVACY LAW notices a good step, but not enough, advocates say following California's 'reminder.' (P. 4)

SIRIUS XM READIES TWO-WAY service melding IP with satellite radio to meet coming wave of Internet-connected vehicles, Sirius executives say. (P. 5)

AGENCIES: NIST draft guidelines address 'hardware-rooted security' in mobile devices ... FCC authority to regulate Internet questioned in D.C. Circuit briefs. (P. 6)

COURTS: Google, Rosetta Stone settle trademark infringement case. (P. 7)

INTERNATIONAL: EC, ICANN detail plans for Internet Governance Forum ... Internet Society opposes controversial proposed revisions to ITRs in ITU submission. (P. 7)

INDUSTRY NOTES: Microsoft, RIM reach patent accord on ex-FAT system ... Mind Candy joins FOSI. (P. 8)

Lawmakers, Tech Groups Optimistic at Prospect of Judiciary Chairman Goodlatte

There will be a new House Judiciary Committee chairman next session and Beltway insiders say that man could be Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va. The 10-term congressman has a steady hand on technical telecom issues, is respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and brings a cautious and inclusive approach to legislation, lawmakers and lobbyists told us. When asked about the possibility of leading the committee, Goodlatte said it would be an "honor to serve as Chairman ... [but] right now my primary focus is on the current election and maintaining the Republican majority in the House," according to a statement from his spokeswoman.

House Republicans are projected to gain or retain enough seats in next week's election to preserve their control of the House. If they succeed in keeping the House, current Judiciary Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas, will pass on the gavel to another Republican. GOP chairmanships are selected through a process that combines seniority and six-year term limits that factor in time spent as ranking member and chairman. Smith reached his term limit this year after being chairman for two years and ranking member the previous four years, a committee spokeswoman confirmed.

To become Judiciary chairman, Goodlatte must first win Virginia's sixth congressional district race against Andy Schmookler, a Democratic author and political commentator with scant telecom experience, and then be selected by the House Republican Steering Committee. The Cook and Rothenberg political reports rate the race as a solid and safe Republican seat, respectively. "This is what we would call a very solid Republican district," said Jessica Taylor, a senior analyst with the Rothenberg Political Report. "Goodlatte has a huge financial lead and Democrats are not challenging the district." Cook Political Report analyst David Wasserman said Goodlatte occupies "the most bedrock Republican district in the state."