

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2725

To require the Federal Communications Commission to adopt regulations to protect subscribers to Internet protocol telephone services concerning the use of such services with alarm, security, and personal emergency response systems.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 14, 2007

Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. STEARNS) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require the Federal Communications Commission to adopt regulations to protect subscribers to Internet protocol telephone services concerning the use of such services with alarm, security, and personal emergency response systems.

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 “Alarm Customer VOIP
5 Notification Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. REGULATIONS REQUIRED.**

2 (a) COMMISSION PROCEEDING REQUIRED.—Within
3 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Fed-
4 eral Communications Commission shall commence a rule-
5 making to adopt regulations that will protect subscribers
6 to VOIP services who utilize alarm, security, or personal
7 emergency response systems in conjunction with VOIP
8 services.

9 (b) MINIMUM CONTENTS OF REGULATIONS.—The
10 rules required by this section shall ensure that subscribers
11 to VOIP service are informed by clear and conspicuous
12 disclosure by a VOIP service provider and by a manufac-
13 turer of VOIP equipment in all sales and instructional ma-
14 terials, and again before installation or number activation,
15 of the steps the subscribers need to take to maintain the
16 proper functioning of any alarm, security, or personal
17 emergency response system that the subscriber intends to
18 utilize in conjunction with VOIP service to provide moni-
19 toring services. Such steps shall include that each such
20 customer should—

21 (1) arrange with his or her emergency response
22 system provider, if any, to test such system after in-
23 stallation;

24 (2) notify his or her emergency response system
25 provider as soon as the VOIP service is installed;
26 and

1 (3) maintain a 24-hour battery backup for cus-
2 tomer premises equipment installed in connection
3 with the VOIP service in order for the signaling of
4 such system to function in the event of a power out-
5 age.

6 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

7 (1) VOIP SERVICE.—The term “VOIP service”
8 means a service that—

9 (A) provides real-time voice communica-
10 tions transmitted through end user equipment
11 using Internet protocol, or a successor protocol,
12 for a fee or without a fee;

13 (B) is offered to the public, or such classes
14 of users as to be effectively available to the
15 public (whether part of a bundle of services or
16 separately); and

17 (C) has the capability to originate traffic
18 to, or terminate traffic from, the public
19 switched telephone network.

20 (2) EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM.—The
21 term “emergency response system” means an alarm
22 or security system, or personal security or medical
23 monitoring system, that is connected to an emer-
24 gency response center by means of a telecommuni-
25 cations carrier or VOIP service provider.

1 (3) EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTER.—The
2 term “emergency response center” means an entity
3 that monitors transmissions from an emergency re-
4 sponse system.

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