

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2553

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a default configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9–1–1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 11, 2016

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. CRUZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a default configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9–1–1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes.

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 “Kari’s Law Act of  
5 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFAULT CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE TELE-**  
2 **PHONE SYSTEMS FOR DIRECT DIALING OF 9-**  
3 **1-1.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Communications  
5 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding  
6 at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 721. DEFAULT CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE**  
8 **TELEPHONE SYSTEMS FOR DIRECT DIALING**  
9 **OF 9-1-1.**

10 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘multi-  
11 line telephone system’ has the meaning given the term in  
12 section 6502 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Cre-  
13 ation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1471).

14 “(b) DIRECT INITIATION OF CALLS TO 9-1-1.—A  
15 person engaged in the business of manufacturing, import-  
16 ing, selling, leasing, or installing multi-line telephone sys-  
17 tems may not manufacture or import for use in the United  
18 States, sell or lease or offer to sell or lease in the United  
19 States, or install in the United States a multi-line tele-  
20 phone system unless the default configuration of the sys-  
21 tem allows a user to directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 from  
22 any station equipped with dialing facilities—

23 “(1) without requiring the user to dial any ad-  
24 ditional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, including any  
25 trunk-access code (such as the digit ‘9’); and

1           “(2) regardless of whether the user is required  
2           to dial such a digit, code, prefix, or post-fix for other  
3           calls.

4           “(c) ON-SITE NOTIFICATION.—

5           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A person engaged in the  
6           business of installing multi-line telephone systems, in  
7           installing a system described in paragraph (2), shall  
8           configure the system to provide a notification to a  
9           central location—

10           “(A) at the facility where the system is in-  
11           stalled; and

12           “(B) when a person at the facility initiates  
13           a call to 9–1–1 using the system.

14           “(2) CONFIGURATION.—A system described in  
15           this paragraph is a multi-line telephone system that  
16           is able to be configured to provide the notification  
17           described in paragraph (1) without an improvement  
18           to the hardware of the system.

19           “(d) ENFORCEMENT.—This section shall be enforced  
20           under title V, except that section 501 applies only to the  
21           extent that the section provides for the imposition of a  
22           fine.”.

23           (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
24           subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a multi-line tele-  
25           phone system that is manufactured, imported, offered for

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- 1 first sale or lease, first sold or leased, or installed after
- 2 the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment
- 3 of this Act.

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