

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 123

AN ACT

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 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFAULT CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE TELE-**
 7 **PHONE SYSTEMS FOR DIRECT DIALING OF 9-**
 8 **1-1.**

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

12 **“SEC. 721. DEFAULT CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE**
 13 **TELEPHONE SYSTEMS FOR DIRECT DIALING**
 14 **OF 9-1-1.**

15 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

16 “(1) the term ‘multi-line telephone system’ has
 17 the meaning given the term in section 6502 of the
 18 Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of
 19 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1471); and

20 “(2) the term ‘public safety answering point’
 21 has the meaning given the term in section 222(h).

22 “(b) MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM
 23 FUNCTIONALITY.—A person engaged in the business of
 24 manufacturing, importing, selling, or leasing multi-line
 25 telephone systems may not manufacture or import for use

1 in the United States or sell or lease or offer to sell or
2 lease in the United States a multi-line telephone system
3 unless the technology of the system has the capabilities
4 described in subsections (c) and (e).

5 “(c) MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM INSTALLA-
6 TION.—A person engaged in the business of installing
7 multi-line telephone systems serving locations in the
8 United States may not install such a system in the United
9 States unless, upon installation, the system allows a call
10 that is initiated when a user dials 9–1–1 from any station
11 equipped with dialing facilities to be transmitted to the
12 appropriate public safety answering point—

13 “(1) without requiring the user to dial any ad-
14 ditional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, including any
15 trunk-access code (such as the digit 9); and

16 “(2) regardless of whether the user is required
17 to dial a digit, code, prefix, or post-fix described in
18 paragraph (1) for other calls.

19 “(d) OTHER 9–1–1 EMERGENCY DIALING PAT-
20 TERNES.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit the con-
21 figuration of a multi-line telephone system so that other
22 9–1–1 emergency dialing patterns will also initiate a call
23 to a public safety answering point, provided that the dial-
24 ing pattern 9–1–1 remains available to users.

25 “(e) ON-SITE NOTIFICATION.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A person engaged in the
2 business of installing multi-line telephone systems
3 serving locations in the United States, in installing
4 a system described in paragraph (2) in the United
5 States, shall configure the system so that when a
6 person at the facility where the system is installed
7 initiates a call to 9–1–1 using the system, the sys-
8 tem provides a notification to—

9 “(A) a central location at the facility; or

10 “(B) a person or organization with respon-
11 sibility for safety or security for the location as
12 designated by the manager or operator of the
13 system.

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

19 “(f) REGULATIONS.—

20 “(1) AUTHORITY.—The Commission may pre-
21 scribe regulations to carry out this section.

22 “(2) TECHNOLOGICALLY NEUTRAL.—Regula-
23 tions prescribed under paragraph (1) shall, to the
24 extent practicable, promote the purposes of this sec-
25 tion in a technologically neutral manner.

1 “(g) ENFORCEMENT.—This section shall be enforced
2 under title V, except that section 501 applies only to the
3 extent that the section provides for the imposition of a
4 fine.

5 “(h) EFFECT ON STATE LAW.—Nothing in this sec-
6 tion or in regulations prescribed under this section shall
7 be construed to prevent any State from enforcing any
8 State law that is not inconsistent with this section.”.

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
10 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a multi-line tele-
11 phone system that is manufactured, imported, offered for
12 first sale or lease, first sold or leased, or installed after
13 the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment
14 of this Act.

Passed the Senate August 3, 2017.

Attest:

Secretary.

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