

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 123

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 12, 2017

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

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 2017”.

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) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

11 “(1) the term ‘multi-line telephone system’ has
 12 the meaning given the term in section 6502 of the
 13 Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of
 14 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1471); and

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

17 “(b) MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM
 18 FUNCTIONALITY.—A person engaged in the business of
 19 manufacturing, importing, selling, or leasing multi-line
 20 telephone systems may not manufacture or import for use
 21 in the United States or sell or lease or offer to sell or
 22 lease in the United States a multi-line telephone system
 23 unless the technology of the system has the capabilities
 24 described in subsections (c) and (e).

25 “(c) MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM INSTALLA-
 26 TION.—A person engaged in the business of installing

1 multi-line telephone systems serving locations in the
2 United States may not install such a system in the United
3 States unless, upon installation, the system allows a call
4 that is initiated when a user dials 9-1-1 from any station
5 equipped with dialing facilities to be transmitted to the
6 appropriate public safety answering point—

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

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

13 “(d) OTHER 9-1-1 EMERGENCY DIALING PAT-
14 TERNS.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit the con-
15 figuration of a multi-line telephone system so that other
16 9-1-1 emergency dialing patterns will also initiate a call
17 to a public safety answering point, provided that the dial-
18 ing pattern 9-1-1 remains available to users.

19 “(e) ON-SITE NOTIFICATION.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A person engaged in the
21 business of installing multi-line telephone systems
22 serving locations in the United States, in installing
23 a system described in paragraph (2) in the United
24 States, shall configure the system so that when a
25 person at the facility where the system is installed

1 initiates a call to 9-1-1 using the system, the sys-
2 tem provides a notification to—

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

4 “(B) a person or organization with respon-
5 sibility for safety or security for the location as
6 designated by the manager or operator of the
7 system.

8 “(2) APPLICATION.—A system described in this
9 paragraph is a multi-line telephone system that is
10 able to be configured to provide the notification de-
11 scribed in paragraph (1) without any improvement
12 to the system.

13 “(f) REGULATIONS.—

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

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

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

24 “(h) EFFECT ON STATE LAW.—Nothing in this sec-
25 tion or in regulations prescribed under this section shall

1 be construed to prevent any State from enforcing any
2 State law that is not inconsistent with this section.”.

3 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
4 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a multi-line tele-
5 phone system that is manufactured, imported, offered for
6 first sale or lease, first sold or leased, or installed after
7 the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment
8 of this Act.

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