

Calendar No. 164115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 123****[Report No. 115-124]**

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

JULY 10, 2017

Reported by Mr. THUNE, without amendment

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Kari’s Law Act of
3 2017”.

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

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

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

13 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

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

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

20 “(b) MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM
21 FUNCTIONALITY.—A person engaged in the business of
22 manufacturing, importing, selling, or leasing multi-line
23 telephone systems may not manufacture or import for use
24 in the United States or sell or lease or offer to sell or
25 lease in the United States a multi-line telephone system

1 unless the technology of the system has the capabilities
2 described in subsections (c) and (e).

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

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

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

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

23 “(e) ON-SITE NOTIFICATION.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A person engaged in the
25 business of installing multi-line telephone systems

1 serving locations in the United States, in installing
2 a system described in paragraph (2) in the United
3 States, shall configure the system so that when a
4 person at the facility where the system is installed
5 initiates a call to 9–1–1 using the system, the sys-
6 tem provides a notification to—

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

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

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

17 “(f) REGULATIONS.—

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

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

24 “(g) ENFORCEMENT.—This section shall be enforced
25 under title V, except that section 501 applies only to the

1 extent that the section provides for the imposition of a
2 fine.

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

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

Calendar No. 164

115TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

S. 123

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