

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4194

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to designate 9–8–8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 20, 2019

Mr. STEWART (for himself, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. GIANFORTE, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COLE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SOTO, Mr. STEIL, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. TURNER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WALTZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to designate 9–8–8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide

Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line, 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 “National Suicide Hot-
5 line Designation Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR NATIONAL**
7 **SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH**
8 **CRISIS HOTLINE SYSTEM.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(e) of the Commu-
10 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)) is amended by
11 adding at the end the following:

12 “(4) UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR NA-
13 TIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH
14 CRISIS HOTLINE SYSTEM.—The Commission and any
15 agency or entity to which the Commission has dele-
16 gated authority under this subsection shall designate
17 9–8–8 as the universal telephone number within the
18 United States for the purpose of the national suicide
19 prevention and mental health crisis hotline system
20 operating through the National Suicide Prevention
21 Lifeline maintained by the Assistant Secretary for
22 Mental Health and Substance Use under section
23 520E–3 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
24 290bb–36c) and through the Veterans Crisis Line

1 maintained by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
2 under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States
3 Code. The designation shall apply to both wireline
4 and wireless telephone service.”.

5 (b) DEADLINE.—The designation required by the
6 amendment made by subsection (a) shall be made not later
7 than the date that is 1 year after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 3. STATE AUTHORITY OVER FEES.**

10 (a) AUTHORITY.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act, any
12 amendment made by this Act, the Communications
13 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), or any Com-
14 mission regulation or order may prevent the imposi-
15 tion and collection of a fee or charge applicable to
16 a commercial mobile service or an IP-enabled voice
17 service specifically designated by a State, a political
18 subdivision of a State, an Indian Tribe, or village or
19 regional corporation serving a region established
20 pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
21 Act (43 U.S.C. 1601–1624; 85 Stat. 688 et seq.) for
22 the support or implementation of 9–8–8 services, if
23 the fee or charge is held in a sequestered account to
24 be obligated or expended only in support of 9–8–8
25 services, or enhancements of such services, as speci-

1 fied in the provision of State or local law adopting
2 the fee or charge.

3 (2) LIMIT ON FEE OR CHARGE.—For each class
4 of subscribers to IP-enabled voice services, the fee or
5 charge may not exceed the amount of any such fee
6 or charge applicable to the same class of subscribers
7 to telecommunications services.

8 (b) FEE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT.—To ensure effi-
9 ciency, transparency, and accountability in the collection
10 and expenditure of a fee or charge for the support or im-
11 plementation of 9–8–8 services, not later than 1 year after
12 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-
13 after, the Commission shall submit to the Committees on
14 Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Appropria-
15 tions of the Senate and the Committees on Energy and
16 Commerce and Appropriations of the House of Represent-
17 atives a report that—

18 (1) details the status in each State of the collec-
19 tion and distribution of such fees or charges; and

20 (2) includes findings on the amount of revenues
21 obligated or expended by each State or political sub-
22 division thereof for any purpose other than the pur-
23 pose for which any such fees or charges are speci-
24 fied.

25 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) COMMERCIAL MOBILE SERVICE.—The term
2 “commercial mobile service” has the meaning given
3 that term under section 332(d) of the Communica-
4 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)).

5 (2) IP-ENABLED VOICE SERVICE.—The term
6 “IP-enabled voice service” has the meaning given
7 that term by section 9.3 of the Commission’s regula-
8 tions (47 C.F.R. 9.3), as those regulations may be
9 amended by the Commission from time to time.

10 (3) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
11 ing given that term in section 7 of the Wireless
12 Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (47
13 U.S.C. 615b).

14 (4) TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE.—The
15 term “telecommunications service” has the meaning
16 given that term in section 3 of the Communications
17 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

18 **SEC. 4. LOCATION IDENTIFICATION REPORT.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall
21 submit to the appropriate committees a report that exam-
22 ines the feasibility and cost of including an automatic
23 dispatchable location that would be conveyed with a 9–
24 8–8 call, regardless of the technological platform used and
25 including with calls from multi-line telephone systems (as

1 defined in section 6502 of the Middle Class Tax Relief
2 and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1471) identifica-
3 tion or equivalent information features over the 9–8–8
4 network.

5 (b) DEFINITION.—In this section:

6 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES.—The term
7 “appropriate committees” means the following:

8 (A) The Committee on Commerce, Science,
9 and Transportation of the Senate.

10 (B) The Committee on Health, Education,
11 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

12 (C) The Committee on Energy and Com-
13 merce of the House of Representatives.

14 (2) DISPATCHABLE LOCATION.—The term
15 “dispatchable location” means the street address of
16 the calling party and additional information such as
17 room number, floor number, or similar information
18 necessary to adequately identify the location of the
19 calling party.

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