

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4167

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 3, 2015

Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. CULBERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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 2015”.

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) IN GENERAL.—A person engaged in the busi-
11 ness of manufacturing, importing, selling, leasing, or in-
12 stalling multi-line telephone systems may not manufacture
13 or import for use in the United States, sell or lease or
14 offer to sell or lease in the United States, or install in
15 the United States a multi-line telephone system, unless the
16 default configuration of such system is such that a user
17 may directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 from any station
18 equipped with dialing facilities, without dialing any addi-
19 tional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, including any trunk-
20 access code such as the digit ‘9’, regardless of whether
21 the user is required to dial such a digit, code, prefix, or
22 post-fix for other calls.

23 “(b) ON-SITE NOTIFICATION.—A person engaged in
24 the business of installing multi-line telephone systems, in
25 installing such a system, shall configure the system to pro-
26 vide a notification to a central location at the facility

1 where the system is installed when a person at the facility
2 initiates a call to 9–1–1 using the system, if the system
3 is able to be configured to provide the notification without
4 an improvement to the hardware of the system.

5 “(c) ENFORCEMENT.—This section shall be enforced
6 under title V, except that section 501 applies only to the
7 extent that such section provides for the punishment of
8 a fine.

9 “(d) MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM DEFINED.—
10 The term ‘multi-line telephone system’ has the meaning
11 given such term in section 6502 of the Middle Class Tax
12 Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1471).”.

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

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