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S. 725

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting, to categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification system, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. KING, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. KELLY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting, to categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification system, 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 “Enhancing First Re-
3 sponse Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. REPORTS AFTER ACTIVATION OF DISASTER INFOR-**
5 **MATION REPORTING SYSTEM; IMPROVE-**
6 **MENTS TO NETWORK OUTAGE REPORTING.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) AUTOMATIC LOCATION INFORMATION;
9 AUTOMATIC NUMBER IDENTIFICATION.—The terms
10 “Automatic Location Information” and “Automatic
11 Number Identification” have the meanings given
12 those terms in section 9.3 of title 47, Code of Fed-
13 eral Regulations, or any successor regulation.

14 (2) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—
15 The term “broadband internet access service” has
16 the meaning given the term in section 8.1(b) of title
17 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor
18 regulation.

19 (3) COMMERCIAL MOBILE SERVICE.—The term
20 “commercial mobile service” has the meaning given
21 the term in section 332(d) of the Communications
22 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)).

23 (4) COMMERCIAL MOBILE DATA SERVICE.—The
24 term “commercial mobile data service” has the
25 meaning given the term in section 6001 of the Mid-

1 dle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012
2 (47 U.S.C. 1401).

3 (5) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
4 means the Federal Communications Commission.

5 (6) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT; LOCAL GOV-
6 ERNMENT.—The terms “Indian tribal government”
7 and “local government” have the meanings given
8 those terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford
9 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
10 U.S.C. 5122).

11 (7) INTERCONNECTED VOIP SERVICE; STATE.—
12 The terms “interconnected VoIP service” and
13 “State” have the meanings given those terms in sec-
14 tion 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
15 U.S.C. 153).

16 (8) MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM.—The
17 term “multi-line telephone system” has the meaning
18 given the term in section 721(f) of the Communica-
19 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 623(f)).

20 (9) OUTAGE.—The term “outage” has the
21 meaning given the term in section 4.5 of title 47,
22 Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regu-
23 lation.

24 (10) PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT.—The
25 term “public safety answering point” has the mean-

ing given the term in section 222(h) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 222(h)).

(11) SYSTEM.—The term “System” means the Disaster Information Reporting System.

(b) REPORTS AFTER ACTIVATION OF DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM.—

(1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 weeks after the deactivation of the System with respect to an event for which the System was activated for not less than 7 days, the Commission shall issue a preliminary report on, with respect to such event and to the extent known—

(i) the number and duration of any outages of—

(I) broadband internet access service;

(II) interconnected VoIP service;

(III) commercial mobile service;

and

(IV) commercial mobile data service;

(ii) the approximate number of users or the amount of communications infra-

1 structure potentially affected by an outage
2 described in clause (i);

3 (iii) the number and duration of any
4 outages that prevent public safety answer-
5 ing points from receiving caller location or
6 number information or receiving emer-
7 gency calls and routing such calls to emer-
8 gency service personnel; and

9 (iv) any additional information deter-
10 mined appropriate by the Commission.

11 (B) DEVELOPMENT OF REPORT.—The
12 Commission shall develop the report required by
13 subparagraph (A) using information collected
14 by the Commission, including information col-
15 lected by the Commission through the System.

16 (2) PUBLIC FIELD HEARINGS.—

17 (A) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 8
18 months after the deactivation of the System
19 with respect to an event for which the System
20 was activated for not less than 7 days, the
21 Commission shall hold not less than 1 public
22 field hearing in the area affected by such event.

23 (B) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS
24 IN HEARINGS.—For each public field hearing

1 held under subparagraph (A), the Commission
2 shall consider including—

3 (i) representatives of State govern-
4 ment, local government, or Indian tribal
5 governments in areas affected by such
6 event;

7 (ii) residents of the areas affected by
8 such event, or consumer advocates;

9 (iii) providers of communications serv-
10 ices affected by such event;

11 (iv) faculty of institutions of higher
12 education;

13 (v) representatives of other Federal
14 agencies;

15 (vi) electric utility providers;

16 (vii) communications infrastructure
17 companies; and

18 (viii) first responders, emergency
19 managers, or 9–1–1 directors in areas af-
20 fected by such event.

21 (3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 12 months
22 after the deactivation of the System with respect to
23 an event for which the System was activated for not
24 less than 7 days, the Commission shall issue a final
25 report that includes, with respect to such event—

1 (A) the information described in paragraph
 2 (1)(A); and

3 (B) any recommendations of the Commis-
 4 sion on how to improve the resiliency of af-
 5 fected communications or networks recovery ef-
 6 forts.

7 (4) DEVELOPMENT OF REPORTS.—In devel-
 8 oping a report required under this subsection, the
 9 Commission shall consider information collected by
 10 the Commission, including information collected by
 11 the Commission through the System, and any public
 12 hearing described in paragraph (2) with respect to
 13 the applicable event.

14 (5) PUBLICATION.—The Commission shall pub-
 15 lish each report, excluding information that is other-
 16 wise exempt from public disclosure under the rules
 17 of the Commission, issued under this subsection on
 18 the website of the Commission upon the issuance of
 19 such report.

20 (c) IMPROVEMENTS TO NETWORK OUTAGE REPORT-
 21 ING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
 22 of this Act, the Commission shall investigate and publish
 23 a report on—

24 (1) the value to public safety agencies of origi-
 25 nating service providers including visual information

to improve situational awareness about outages in the notifications provided to public safety answering points, as required by rules issued by the Commission;

(2) the volume and nature of 911 outages that may go unreported under the outage notification thresholds of the Commission; and

(3) recommended changes to rules issued by the Commission to address paragraphs (1) and (2).

SEC. 3. REPORTING OF PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS AS PROTECTIVE SERVICE OCCUPATIONS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Public safety telecommunicators play a critical role in emergency response, providing medical instruction, gathering lifesaving information, and protecting civilians and first responders.

(2) The Standard Occupational Classification system is designed and maintained solely for statistical purposes, and is used by Federal statistical agencies to classify workers and jobs into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, analyzing, or disseminating data.

(3) Occupations in the Standard Occupational Classification are classified based on work performed

1 and, in some cases, on the skills, education, or train-
2 ing needed to perform the work.

3 (4) Classifying public safety telecommunicators
4 as a protective service occupation would correct an
5 inaccurate representation in the Standard Occupa-
6 tional Classification, recognize these professionals
7 for the lifesaving work they perform, and better
8 align the Standard Occupational Classification with
9 related classification systems.

10 (b) STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYS-
11 TEM.—The Director of the Office of Management and
12 Budget shall, not later than 30 days after the date of en-
13 actment of this Act, categorize public safety telecommu-
14 nicators as a protective service occupation under the
15 Standard Occupational Classification system.

16 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KARI'S LAW**
17 **ACT OF 2017.**

18 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
19 of this Act, the Inspector General of the Commission shall
20 publish a report regarding the enforcement by the Com-
21 mission of section 721 of the Communications Act of 1934
22 (47 U.S.C. 623), which shall include—

23 (1) a summary of the extent to which multi-line
24 telephone system manufacturers and vendors have
25 complied with that section;

1 (2) potential difficulties and obstacles in com-
2 plying with that section;

3 (3) recommendations to the Commission, if nec-
4 essary, on ways to improve the policies of the Com-
5 mission to better enforce that section; and

6 (4) recommendations to Congress, if necessary,
7 on further legislation that could mitigate problems
8 like those that are addressed by that section.

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