

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3954

To terminate the ability of eligible telecommunications carriers in certain States to use State eligibility determination processes in place of the National Verifier to determine the eligibility of consumers for Lifeline service.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Ms. ERNST introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To terminate the ability of eligible telecommunications carriers in certain States to use State eligibility determination processes in place of the National Verifier to determine the eligibility of consumers for Lifeline service.

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 “No Lifeline for Dead
5 People Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MANDATORY USE OF NATIONAL VERIFIER TO DE-**
7 **TERMINE LIFELINE ELIGIBILITY.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CAR-
2 RIER.—The term “eligible telecommunications car-
3 rier” means a common carrier designated as an eli-
4 gible telecommunications carrier under section
5 214(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
6 U.S.C. 214(e)).

7 (2) LIFELINE SERVICE.—The term “Lifeline
8 service” means voice telephony service or broadband
9 internet access service provided under the program
10 set forth in subpart E of part 54 of title 47, Code
11 of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

12 (3) NATIONAL VERIFIER.—The term “National
13 Verifier” has the meaning given the term in section
14 54.400 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or
15 any successor regulation.

16 (b) MANDATORY USE OF NATIONAL VERIFIER.—An
17 eligible telecommunications carrier may not provide Life-
18 line service to a consumer unless the carrier has used the
19 National Verifier to verify the eligibility of the consumer
20 for Lifeline service.

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