

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4691

To support improved awareness and coordination of Federal communications resources during disasters and emergencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 4, 2026

Mr. SHEEHY (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To support improved awareness and coordination of Federal communications resources during disasters and emergencies, 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 “Disaster Communica-
5 tions Coordination and Preparedness Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
9 means the Federal Communications Commission.

1 (2) DIRS.—The term “DIRS” means the Dis-
 2 aster Information Reporting System described in
 3 section 4.18 of title 47, Code of Federal Regula-
 4 tions, or any successor regulation.

5 (3) MANDATORY DISASTER RESPONSE INITIA-
 6 TIVE.—The term “Mandatory Disaster Response
 7 Initiative” means the requirements of section 4.17 of
 8 title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any suc-
 9 cessor regulation.

10 **SEC. 3. REVIEW OF DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING**
 11 **SYSTEM ACTIVATION NOTICES.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
 13 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall review
 14 (and, as appropriate, update) the procedures and practices
 15 of the Commission for providing notices regarding the ac-
 16 tivation and deactivation of DIRS.

17 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the review
 18 (and, if applicable, update) required under subsection (a),
 19 the Commission shall, to the extent practicable—

20 (1) consult with—

21 (A) providers that submit reports in DIRS
 22 when the Commission activates DIRS in geo-
 23 graphic areas in which those providers provide
 24 service; and

1 (B) State, local, Tribal, and territorial
 2 emergency management and public safety au-
 3 thorities; and

4 (2) consider whether any changes to the format
 5 or content of a DIRS activation or deactivation no-
 6 tice would improve usability for recipients of such a
 7 notice.

8 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
 9 tion may be construed to—

10 (1) require the Commission to adopt new regu-
 11 lations; or

12 (2) otherwise affect the discretion of the Com-
 13 mission to determine whether or when to activate
 14 DIRS.

15 **SEC. 4. ENHANCED COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC SAFETY**
 16 **ENTITIES.**

17 (a) FEASIBILITY EVALUATION.—Not later than 18
 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-
 19 mission shall evaluate the feasibility of enhancing the ex-
 20 isting public safety liaison functions of the Commission,
 21 including through expanded use of the 24-hour operations
 22 center of the Commission or similar resources, for the pur-
 23 pose of—

24 (1) serving as a clear point of entry for State,
 25 local, Tribal, and territorial officials seeking infor-

1 mation on communications status during a disaster
 2 or emergency; and

3 (2) facilitating coordination between the offi-
 4 cials described in paragraph (1) and communications
 5 service providers before, during, and after a disaster
 6 or emergency.

7 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
 8 tion may be construed to—

9 (1) create a new reporting requirement or oper-
 10 ational mandate for any provider of communications
 11 services; or

12 (2) require the Commission to implement any
 13 action based on the evaluation conducted under sub-
 14 section (a).

15 **SEC. 5. DEVELOPMENT OF DISASTER AND EMERGENCY**

16 **COMMUNICATIONS AWARENESS MATERIALS.**

17 (a) DEVELOPMENT.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
 19 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission
 20 shall develop and make publicly available plain-lan-
 21 guage materials to support awareness and under-
 22 standing among State, local, Tribal, and territorial
 23 emergency management and public safety authorities
 24 regarding Federal communications and emergency

1 coordination mechanisms during disasters and emer-
2 gencies.

3 (2) EXISTING RESOURCES.—In carrying out
4 paragraph (1), the Commission may draw upon and
5 consolidate existing outreach materials, public no-
6 tices, guidance documents, and other Commission
7 resources.

8 (b) CONTENTS.—The materials developed under sub-
9 section (a) shall, to the extent practicable, include infor-
10 mation describing—

11 (1) the purpose and operation of DIRS, includ-
12 ing how an activation of DIRS affects the operations
13 of communications service providers and public safe-
14 ty authorities;

15 (2) the types of information that may be made
16 available during an activation of DIRS, which shall
17 include a discussion of—

18 (A) communications status reports; and

19 (B) the limitations of that information, in-
20 cluding applicable protections for confidential or
21 sensitive information;

22 (3) how to access the reports described in para-
23 graph (2)(A) and other publicly available informa-
24 tion derived from reports submitted during a DIRS
25 activation;

1 (4) the Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative
2 and how the Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative
3 supports coordination regarding, and restoration of,
4 communications services during emergencies and dis-
5 asters;

6 (5) existing Commission resources and coordi-
7 nation capabilities, including points of contact and
8 the 24-hour operations capabilities of the Commis-
9 sion, that may be available to State, local, Tribal,
10 and territorial officials during emergencies and dis-
11 asters; and

12 (6) general information describing communica-
13 tions capabilities and services that may be available
14 to support public safety communications during
15 emergencies and disasters, including how—

16 (A) those capabilities may supplement or
17 support other communications systems and co-
18 ordination mechanisms described in this sub-
19 section; and

20 (B) State, local, Tribal, and territorial au-
21 thorities may coordinate with communications
22 providers and the Commission regarding those
23 capabilities.

24 (c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the
25 Commission shall, to the extent practicable, consult with—

1 (1) providers of communications services that—

2 (A) submit reports in DIRS when the
3 Commission activates DIRS in geographic areas
4 in which those providers provide service; or

5 (B) are subject to the Mandatory Disaster
6 Response Initiative; and

7 (2) State, local, Tribal, and territorial emer-
8 gency management and public safety authorities.

9 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
10 tion may be construed to require the Commission to adopt
11 new regulations, or modify existing regulations, relating
12 to DIRS or the Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative.

○