

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4968

To provide for the transmission of emergency alerts by satellite, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 14, 2026

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

A BILL

To provide for the transmission of emergency alerts by satellite, 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 “Mystic Alerts Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. TRANSMISSION OF EMERGENCY ALERTS BY SAT-**
6 **ELLITE.**

7 (a) SERVICE PROVIDER ELECTION.—

8 (1) REQUIRED FILING.—Not later than 60 days
9 after the effective date of the final rule required to
10 be issued under subsection (b), each covered service

1 provider shall file an election with the Federal Com-
2 munications Commission (in this section referred to
3 as the “Commission”) with respect to whether the
4 provider intends to transmit emergency alerts by
5 satellite to the subscribers of the commercial mobile
6 service of the provider who receive such service on
7 devices capable of receiving such alerts, in addition
8 to the transmission of emergency alerts under the
9 Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47
10 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.).

11 (2) NOTIFICATION; AGREEMENT.—If a provider
12 elects to transmit emergency alerts to subscribers by
13 satellite under paragraph (1), the provider shall—

14 (A) notify the Commission of that election;
15 and

16 (B) agree to transmit such alerts in a
17 manner consistent with the technical standards,
18 protocols, procedures, and other technical re-
19 quirements implemented by the Commission.

20 (3) ELECTION NOT TO TRANSMIT.—If a pro-
21 vider elects not to transmit emergency alerts by sat-
22 ellite under paragraph (1), the provider shall provide
23 notice to new and existing subscribers described in
24 such paragraph of that election in the same manner
25 that is required under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of

1 section 602(b)(1) of the Warning, Alert, and Re-
2 sponse Network Act (42 U.S.C. 1201(b)(1)).

3 (4) CONSUMER CHOICE TO OPT OUT.—If a pro-
4 vider elects to transmit emergency alerts to sub-
5 scribers by satellite under paragraph (1), the pro-
6 vider shall prevent the device of any such subscriber
7 that opts out of receiving emergency alerts pursuant
8 to section 602(b)(2)(E) of the Warning, Alert, and
9 Response Network Act (42 U.S.C. 1201(b)(2)(E)),
10 or classes of such alerts, from receiving such alerts
11 by satellite.

12 (5) NO FEE FOR SERVICE.—If a provider elects
13 to transmit emergency alerts to subscribers by sat-
14 ellite under paragraph (1), the provider may not im-
15 pose a separate or additional charge for such trans-
16 mission or capability.

17 (b) SATELLITE ALERT REGULATIONS.—

18 (1) NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING.—Not
19 later than 6 months after the date of the enactment
20 of this Act, the Commission shall publish a notice of
21 proposed rulemaking to establish any requirements
22 necessary to facilitate the satellite alerting capability
23 of covered service providers.

24 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements de-
25 scribed under paragraph (1) shall—

1 (A) take into account the capability of—

2 (i) satellites to transmit emergency
3 alerts; and

4 (ii) mobile devices to receive and dis-
5 play such alerts; and

6 (B) minimize the impact of emergency
7 alerting on other voice and data communica-
8 tions, including 9–1–1 communications.

9 (3) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 18 months
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
11 Commission shall, in consultation with the Secretary
12 of Homeland Security and the Administrator of the
13 Federal Emergency Management Agency, issue a
14 final rule establishing the requirements described
15 under paragraph (1).

16 (4) EFFECTIVE DATE OF RULE.—

17 (A) DATE.—The effective date of the final
18 rule described under paragraph (3) shall be the
19 later of—

20 (i) 36 months after publication of the
21 final rule in the Federal Register; or

22 (ii) 12 months after the Secretary of
23 Homeland Security and the Administrator
24 of the Federal Emergency Management
25 Agency implement any standards, proto-

1 cols, or procedures necessary to support
2 the transmission of emergency alerts from
3 alert originators to covered service pro-
4 viders.

5 (B) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of
6 Homeland Security and the Administrator of
7 the Federal Emergency Management Agency
8 shall notify the Commission of the implementa-
9 tion of any standards, protocols, or procedures
10 described under subparagraph (A)(ii) for the
11 purpose of determining the effective date of the
12 final rule described under paragraph (3).

13 (c) LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any covered service provider
15 (including its officers, directors, employees, vendors,
16 and agents) that transmits emergency alerts by sat-
17 ellite and meets its obligations under this Act shall
18 not be liable to any subscriber to, or user of, such
19 person's service or equipment for—

20 (A) any act or omission related to or any
21 harm resulting from the transmission of, or
22 failure to transmit, an emergency alert by sat-
23 ellite; or

24 (B) the release to a government agency or
25 entity, public safety official, fire service, law en-

1 forcement official, emergency medical service, or
2 emergency facility of subscriber information
3 used in connection with delivering such an alert.

4 (2) ELECTION NOT TO TRANSMIT ALERTS BY
5 SATELLITE.—The election by a covered service pro-
6 vider under subsection (a)(3) not to transmit emer-
7 gency alerts by satellite shall not, by itself, provide
8 a basis for liability against the provider (including
9 its officers, directors, employees, vendors, and
10 agents).

11 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

12 (1) COMMERCIAL MOBILE SERVICE.—The term
13 “commercial mobile service” has the meaning given
14 the term in section 332(d) of the Communications
15 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)).

16 (2) COVERED SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term
17 “covered service provider” means a provider of com-
18 mercial mobile service that—

19 (A) voluntarily elects to transmit emer-
20 gency alerts under section 602(b) of the Warn-
21 ing, Alert, and Response Network Act (42
22 U.S.C. 1201(b)); and

1 (B) makes satellite voice and data commu-
2 nications service available to subscribers of the
3 commercial mobile service of the provider.

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