

KARI'S LAW REPORTING ACT

MARCH 26, 2026.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GUTHRIE, from the Committee on Energy and Commerce,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 5201]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Energy and Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 5201) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to publish a report on implementation of the Kari's Law Act of 2017, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 5201, Kari’s Law Reporting Act, was introduced on September 8, 2025, by Representatives Doris Matsui (D–CA) and Gus Bilirakis (R–FL). It would require the Federal Communications Commission to publish a report on implementation of the Kari’s Law Act of 2017.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Kari’s Law was enacted on February 16, 2018. The bill was named in honor of Kari Hunt, who was killed by her estranged husband in a motel room in Marshall, Texas in 2013. Ms. Hunt’s 9-year-old daughter tried to call 911 for help four times from the motel room phone, but the call did not go through because the motel’s phone system required dialing “9” for an outbound line before dialing 911.¹

Kari’s Law requires direct 911 dialing capabilities in multi-line telephone systems (MLTS) found often in office buildings, campuses, and hotels. These systems must be pre-configured to support direct dialing of 911. Furthermore, installers, managers, and operators of the systems must also ensure that they support 911 direct dialing. The statute establishes that these requirements must be met by February 16, 2020, and apply to MLTS that are manufactured, imported, offered for first sale or lease, first sold or leased, or installed after February 16, 2020. Kari’s Law also includes a notification requirement that would notify a central point of an MLTS that a 911 call has taken place on the system and is intended to facilitate building entry by first responders. In August 2019, the FCC adopted rules to implement Kari’s Law.²

COMMITTEE ACTION

On September 9, 2025, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled, “Public Safety Communications in the United States.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Steve Newton, Emergency Management Director, Chatham County Emergency Management
- Sheriff Shannon Dicus, San Bernadino County
- Dr. Brian Fontes, Former Chief Executive Officer, National Emergency Number Association
- Randall C. Wright, Executive Director, WUFT/WRUF, Florida Public Radio Emergency Network, and Project Beacon

On December 16, 2025, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a legislative hearing entitled, “Legislative Improvements to Public Safety Communications in the United States.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Captain Jack Varnado, President of APCO International and 9–1–1 Director of Livingston Parish Sheriff’s Office
- Jennifer Manner, Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and International Strategy, AST SpaceMobile
- Matthew Gerst, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

¹FED. COMM’N. COMM’N., *FCC 911 Requirements for MLTS Managers, Operators, and Installers Fact Sheet* (2025) <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/FCC-911-Requirements-for-Multi-Line-Telephone-Systems.pdf>.

²*Id.*

- Jeannette Sutton, PhD, Associate Professor of the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity, University at Albany

On January 15, 2026, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology met in open markup session and forwarded H.R. 5201, without amendment, to the full Committee by voice vote. On January 21, 2026, the full Committee on Energy and Commerce met in open markup session and ordered H.R. 5201, without amendment, favorably reported to the House by a record vote of 46 yeas and 0 nays.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII requires the Committee to list the record votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto. The following reflects the record votes taken during the Committee consideration:

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
119TH CONGRESS
ROLL CALL VOTE # 19**

BILL: H.R. 5201, Kari's Law Reporting Act

AMENDMENT: Final Passage

DISPOSITION: Agreed to, by a roll call vote of 46 ayes and 0 nays.

REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT	REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
Mr. Guthrie	X			Mr. Pallone	X		
Mr. Latta	X			Ms. DeGette	X		
Mr. Griffith	X			Ms. Schakowsky	X		
Mr. Bilirakis	X			Ms. Matsui	X		
Mr. Hudson	X			Ms. Castor	X		
Mr. Carter (GA)	X			Mr. Tonko	X		
Mr. Palmer	X			Ms. Clarke	X		
Mr. Dunn	X			Mr. Ruiz	X		
Mr. Crenshaw	X			Mr. Peters	X		
Mr. Joyce	X			Mrs. Dingell	X		
Mr. Weber	X			Mr. Veasey			
Mr. Allen	X			Ms. Kelly			
Mr. Balderson	X			Ms. Barragán	X		
Mr. Fulcher	X			Mr. Soto	X		
Mr. Pfluger	X			Ms. Schrier	X		
Mrs. Harshbarger	X			Ms. Trahan	X		
Mrs. Miller-Meeks	X			Ms. Fletcher	X		
Mrs. Cammack	X			Ms. Ocasio-Cortez	X		
Mr. Obernolte	X			Mr. Auchincloss	X		
Mr. James	X			Mr. Carter (LA)	X		
Mr. Bentz	X			Mr. Menendez	X		
Mrs. Houchin				Mr. Mullin	X		
Mr. Fry				Mr. Landsman	X		
Ms. Lee				Ms. McClellan	X		
Mr. Langworthy							
Mr. Kean	X						
Mr. Rulli							
Mr. Evans							
Mr. Goldman	X						
Mrs. Fedorchak	X						

01/21/2026

OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee held a hearing and made findings that are reflected in this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND
TAX EXPENDITURES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII, the Committee finds that H.R. 5201 would result in no new or increased budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII, the following is the cost estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974:

At a Glance			
Federal Communications Legislation			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on January 21, 2026			
On January 21, 2026, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce ordered reported 11 bills. This document provides estimates for 3 of those bills that amend reporting and regulatory requirements for the Federal Communications Commission.			
CBO estimates that none of the bills would affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.			
CBO estimates that each bill would increase spending subject to appropriation by an insignificant amount over the 2026-2031 period.			
CBO estimates that enacting the bills would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037.			
All three bills contain private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.			
Bill	Net Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit Over the 2026-2036 Period (Millions of Dollars)	Changes in Spending Subject to Appropriation Over the 2026-2031 Period (Outlays, Millions of Dollars)	Mandate Effects?
H.R. 2076	0	*	Yes
H.R. 5200	0	*	Yes
H.R. 5201	0	*	Yes
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

Summary of legislation: On January 21, 2026, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce ordered 11 bills to be reported. This document provides estimates for 3 of those bills that amend reporting and regulatory requirements for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Estimated Federal cost: This cost estimate does not include any effects of interactions among the bills. If all three bills were combined and enacted as a single bill, the effects could be different from the sum of the separate estimates. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 370 (commerce and housing credit).

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bills will be enacted in fiscal year 2026 and that the estimated amounts will be available. CBO estimates that each bill would increase spending subject to appropriation. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

H.R. 2076, Lulu’s Law, would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to issue a rule that shark attacks are an event for which wireless emergency alerts may be transmitted.

Based on the cost of similar activities, CBO estimates that the administrative costs to implement H.R. 2076 would be insignificant over the 2026–2031 period. Because the FCC is authorized to collect fees each year sufficient to offset the appropriated costs of its regulatory activities, CBO estimates that the net cost to the FCC would be negligible, assuming appropriation actions consistent with that authority.

On June 11, 2025, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1003, Lulu’s Law, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on April 30, 2025. The two bills are similar, and CBO’s estimates of their costs are the same.

H.R. 5200, the Emergency Reporting Act, would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to hold an annual public hearing and report about all the disasters within the past year that caused its Disaster Information Reporting System to be activated for at least seven days. In addition, the bill would require the FCC to report on network outages.

Based on the cost of similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5200 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2026–2031 period. Because the FCC is authorized to collect fees each year sufficient to offset the appropriated costs of its regulatory activities, CBO estimates that the net cost to the FCC would be negligible, assuming appropriation actions consistent with that authority.

H.R. 5201, the Kari’s Law Reporting Act, would direct the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to report on its enforcement of section 721 of the Communications Act of 1934, or Kari’s Law. That law requires manufacturers and sellers of multi-line telephone systems to preconfigure such systems to allow direct dialing of 9–1–1.

Based on the cost of similar reports, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5201 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2026–2031 period. Because the FCC is authorized to collect fees each year sufficient to offset the appropriated costs of its regulatory activities, CBO estimates that the net cost to the FCC would be negligible, assuming appropriation actions consistent with that authority.

Pay-As-You-Go considerations: None of the bills would affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

Increase in long-term net direct spending and deficits: None of the bills would increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037.

Mandates: All three bills would impose private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

H.R. 2076, Lulu’s Law, would increase the cost of an existing private-sector mandate if the FCC increases annual fee collections to offset the costs of implementing the provisions in H.R. 2076. CBO estimates that the incremental cost of the mandate would be small and would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$214 million in 2026, adjusted annually for inflation).

H.R. 2076 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.

H.R. 5200, the Emergency Reporting Act, would increase the cost of an existing private-sector mandate if the FCC increases annual fee collections to offset the costs of implementing the provisions in H.R. 5200. CBO estimates that the incremental cost of the mandate would be small and would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$214 million in 2026, adjusted annually for inflation).

H.R. 5200 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.

H.R. 5201, the Kari's Law Reporting Act, would increase the cost of an existing private-sector mandate if the FCC increases annual fee collections to offset the costs of implementing the provisions in H.R. 5201. CBO estimates that the incremental cost of the mandate would be small and would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$214 million in 2026, adjusted annually for inflation).

H.R. 5201 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: David Hughes, Mandates: Rachel Austin.

Estimate reviewed by: Justin Humphrey, Chief, Finance, Housing, and Education Cost Estimates Unit; Kathleen FitzGerald, Chief, Public and Private Mandates Unit; H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

Estimate approved by: Phillip L. Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this legislation is to determine the extent to which multi-line telephone system manufacturers are complying with the Kari's Law Act of 2017.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 5201 is known to be duplicative of another Federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111-139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

RELATED COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of rule XIII, the following related hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 5201:

- On September 9, 2025, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled, "Public Safety Communications in the United States." The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Steve Newton, Emergency Management Director, Chatham County Emergency Management;
- Sheriff Shannon Dicus, San Bernadino County;
- Dr. Brian Fontes, Former Chief Executive Officer, National Emergency Number Association; and,
- Randall C. Wright, Executive Director, WUFT/WRUF, Florida Public Radio Emergency Network, and Project Beacon
- On December 16, 2025, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a legislative hearing entitled, “Legislative Improvements to Public Safety Communications in the United States.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:
 - Captain Jack Varnado, President of APCO International and 9–1–1 Director of Livingston Parish Sheriff’s Office;
 - Jennifer Manner, Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and International Strategy, AST SpaceMobile;
 - Matthew Gerst, Partner, Wilkinson Barket Knauer, LLP; and,
 - Jeannette Sutton, PhD, Associate Professor of the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity, University at Albany

COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

EARMARK, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Pursuant to clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI, the Committee finds that H.R. 5201 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short title

This section provides that the Act may be cited as the “Kari’s Law Reporting Act.”

Section 2. Report on implementation of Kari’s Law Act of 2017

Subsection (a) requires a report within 180 days which shall include a summary of the extent to which multi-line telephone system manufacturers and vendors have complied with such section, potential difficulties and obstacles in complying with such section,

potential ways, if necessary, to improve the policies of the Commission to better enforce such section, and recommendations to Congress, if necessary, on further legislation that could mitigate problems like those that are addressed by such section.

Subsection (b) defines the terms “Commission,” as meaning the Federal Communications Commission, and “Multi-Line Telephone System,” as the meaning given in section 721(f) of the Communications Act of 1934.

