Public Law 115–127
115th Congress
An Act
To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems
to have a configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9–1–
1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other
purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Kari’s Law Act of 2017”.
SEC. 2. CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEMS FOR
DIRECT DIALING OF 9–1–1.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Communications Act of 1934
(47 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:
“SEC. 721. CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEMS FOR
DIRECT DIALING OF 9–1–1.
“(a) SYSTEM MANUFACTURE, IMPORTATION, SALE, AND LEASE.—
A person engaged in the business of manufacturing, importing,
selling, or leasing multi-line telephone systems may not manufac-
ture or import for use in the United States, or sell or lease or
offer to sell or lease in the United States, a multi-line telephone
system, unless such system is pre-configured such that, when prop-
erly installed in accordance with subsection (b), a user may directly
initiate a call to 9–1–1 from any station equipped with dialing
facilities, without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-
fix, including any trunk-access code such as the digit ‘9’, regardless
of whether the user is required to dial such a digit, code, prefix,
or post-fix for other calls.
“(b) SYSTEM INSTALLATION, MANAGEMENT, AND OPERATION.—
A person engaged in the business of installing, managing, or operat-
ing multi-line telephone systems may not install, manage, or
operate for use in the United States such a system, unless such
system is configured such that a user may directly initiate a call
to 9–1–1 from any station equipped with dialing facilities, without
dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, including any
trunk-access code such as the digit ‘9’, regardless of whether the
user is required to dial such a digit, code, prefix, or post-fix for
other calls.
“(c) ON-SITE NOTIFICATION.—A person engaged in the business
of installing, managing, or operating multi-line telephone systems
shall, in installing, managing, or operating such a system for use
in the United States, configure the system to provide a notification
to a central location at the facility where the system is installed or to another person or organization regardless of location, if the system is able to be configured to provide the notification without an improvement to the hardware or software of the system.

"(d) Effect on State Law.—Nothing in this section is intended to alter the authority of State commissions or other State or local agencies with jurisdiction over emergency communications, if the exercise of such authority is not inconsistent with this Act.

"(e) Enforcement.—This section shall be enforced under title V, except that section 501 applies only to the extent that such section provides for the punishment of a fine.

"(f) Multi-Line Telephone System Defined.—In this section, the term 'multi-line telephone system' has the meaning given such term in section 6502 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1471).”.

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a multi-line telephone system that is manufactured, imported, offered for first sale or lease, first sold or leased, or installed after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Approved February 16, 2018.