

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3654

To adopt technology allowing 9–1–1 call centers to receive and respond to emergency text messages, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 13, 2011

Ms. HOCHUL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To adopt technology allowing 9–1–1 call centers to receive and respond to emergency text messages, 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 “Allowing Local Emer-
5 gency Response Technicians to Accept Cellular Texts Act”
6 or the “ALERT ACT”.

1 **SEC. 2. 9-1-1 TEXT ERROR MESSAGE.**

2 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
3 of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission, in
4 coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security,
5 shall complete a rulemaking requiring that if a consumer
6 unsuccessfully attempts to communicate with a public
7 safety answering point by sending a text message to 9-
8 1-1 using a commercial mobile service, the provider of the
9 commercial mobile service will respond to such consumer
10 with an error message to ensure that the consumer knows
11 that the text message has not been received by the public
12 safety answering point and to instruct the consumer on
13 proper steps to take to reach emergency assistance.

14 **SEC. 3. ADVANCING 9-1-1 TECHNOLOGY.**

15 The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure
16 that at least 10 percent of the Federal funds awarded
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act for emergency
18 management performance grants shall be used to test or
19 implement equipment or services allowing members of the
20 public to send text messages to 9-1-1 for the purpose of
21 obtaining emergency assistance.

22 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

24 (1) **COMMERCIAL MOBILE SERVICE.**—The term
25 “commercial mobile service” has the meaning given

1 such term in section 332 of the Communications Act
2 of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332).

3 (2) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE
4 GRANTS.—The term “emergency management per-
5 formance grants” refers to the grants authorized by
6 section 662 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Manage-
7 ment Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 762).

8 (3) PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT.—The
9 term “public safety answering point” has the mean-
10 ing given such term in section 222 of the Commu-
11 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 222).

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