

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3556

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting, to categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification system, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 18, 2023

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. THUNE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting, to categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification system, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Enhancing First Re-
3 sponse Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. REPORTS AFTER ACTIVATION OF DISASTER INFOR-**
5 **MATION REPORTING SYSTEM; IMPROVE-**
6 **MENTS TO NETWORK OUTAGE REPORTING.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) AUTOMATIC LOCATION INFORMATION;
9 AUTOMATIC NUMBER IDENTIFICATION.—The terms
10 “Automatic Location Information” and “Automatic
11 Number Identification” have the meanings given
12 those terms in section 9.3 of title 47, Code of Fed-
13 eral Regulations, or any successor regulation.

14 (2) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—
15 The term “broadband internet access service” has
16 the meaning given the term in section 8.1(b) of title
17 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor
18 regulation.

19 (3) COMMERCIAL MOBILE SERVICE.—The term
20 “commercial mobile service” has the meaning given
21 the term in section 332(d) of the Communications
22 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)).

23 (4) COMMERCIAL MOBILE DATA SERVICE.—The
24 term “commercial mobile data service” has the
25 meaning given the term in section 6001 of the Mid-

1 dle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012
2 (47 U.S.C. 1401).

3 (5) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
4 means the Federal Communications Commission.

5 (6) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT; LOCAL GOV-
6 ERNMENT.—The terms “Indian tribal government”
7 and “local government” have the meanings given
8 those terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford
9 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
10 U.S.C. 5122).

11 (7) INTERCONNECTED VOIP SERVICE; STATE.—
12 The terms “interconnected VoIP service” and
13 “State” have the meanings given those terms in sec-
14 tion 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
15 U.S.C. 153).

16 (8) OUTAGE.—The term “outage” has the
17 meaning given the term in section 4.5 of title 47,
18 Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regu-
19 lation.

20 (9) PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT.—The
21 term “public safety answering point” has the mean-
22 ing given the term in section 222(h) of the Commu-
23 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 222(h)).

24 (10) SYSTEM.—The term “System” means the
25 Disaster Information Reporting System.

1 (b) REPORTS AFTER ACTIVATION OF DISASTER IN-
2 FORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM.—

3 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 weeks
5 after the deactivation of the System with re-
6 spect to an event for which the System was ac-
7 tivated for not less than 7 days, the Commis-
8 sion shall issue a preliminary report on, with
9 respect to such event and to the extent
10 known—

11 (i) the number and duration of any
12 outages of—

13 (I) broadband internet access
14 service;

15 (II) interconnected VoIP service;

16 (III) commercial mobile service;

17 and

18 (IV) commercial mobile data
19 service;

20 (ii) the approximate number of users
21 or the amount of communications infra-
22 structure potentially affected by an outage
23 described in clause (i);

24 (iii) the number and duration of any
25 outages that prevent public safety answer-

1 ing points from receiving caller location or
2 number information or receiving emer-
3 gency calls and routing such calls to emer-
4 gency service personnel; and

5 (iv) any additional information deter-
6 mined appropriate by the Commission.

7 (B) DEVELOPMENT OF REPORT.—The
8 Commission shall develop the report required by
9 subparagraph (A) using information collected
10 by the Commission, including information col-
11 lected by the Commission through the System.

12 (2) PUBLIC FIELD HEARINGS.—

13 (A) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 8
14 months after the deactivation of the System
15 with respect to an event for which the System
16 was activated for not less than 7 days, the
17 Commission shall hold not less than 1 public
18 field hearing in the area affected by such event.

19 (B) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS
20 IN HEARINGS.—For each public field hearing
21 held under subparagraph (A), the Commission
22 shall consider including—

23 (i) representatives of State govern-
24 ment, local government, or Indian tribal

1 governments in areas affected by such
2 event;

3 (ii) residents of the areas affected by
4 such event, or consumer advocates;

5 (iii) providers of communications serv-
6 ices affected by such event;

7 (iv) faculty of institutions of higher
8 education;

9 (v) representatives of other Federal
10 agencies;

11 (vi) electric utility providers;

12 (vii) communications infrastructure
13 companies; and

14 (viii) first responders, emergency
15 managers, or 9–1–1 directors in areas af-
16 fected by such event.

17 (3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 12 months
18 after the deactivation of the System with respect to
19 an event for which the System was activated for not
20 less than 7 days, the Commission shall issue a final
21 report that includes, with respect to such event—

22 (A) the information described in paragraph
23 (1)(A); and

24 (B) any recommendations of the Commis-
25 sion on how to improve the resiliency of af-

1 fected communications or networks recovery ef-
2 forts.

3 (4) DEVELOPMENT OF REPORTS.—In devel-
4 oping a report required under this subsection, the
5 Commission shall consider information collected by
6 the Commission, including information collected by
7 the Commission through the System, and any public
8 hearing described in paragraph (2) with respect to
9 the applicable event.

10 (5) PUBLICATION.—The Commission shall pub-
11 lish each report, excluding information that is other-
12 wise exempt from public disclosure under the rules
13 of the Commission, issued under this subsection on
14 the website of the Commission upon the issuance of
15 such report.

16 (c) IMPROVEMENTS TO NETWORK OUTAGE REPORT-
17 ING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
18 of this Act, the Commission shall investigate and publish
19 a report on—

20 (1) the value to public safety agencies of origi-
21 nating service providers including visual information
22 to improve situational awareness about outages in
23 the notifications provided to public safety answering
24 points, as required by rules issued by the Commis-
25 sion;

1 (2) the volume and nature of 911 outages that
2 may go unreported under the outage notification
3 thresholds of the Commission; and

4 (3) recommended changes to rules issued by the
5 Commission to address paragraphs (1) and (2).

6 **SEC. 3. REPORTING OF PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICA-**
7 **TORS AS PROTECTIVE SERVICE OCCUPA-**
8 **TIONS.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

10 (1) Public safety telecommunicators play a crit-
11 ical role in emergency response, providing medical
12 instruction, gathering lifesaving information, and
13 protecting civilians and first responders.

14 (2) The Standard Occupational Classification
15 system is designed and maintained solely for statis-
16 tical purposes, and is used by Federal statistical
17 agencies to classify workers and jobs into occupa-
18 tional categories for the purpose of collecting, calcu-
19 lating, analyzing, or disseminating data.

20 (3) Occupations in the Standard Occupational
21 Classification are classified based on work performed
22 and, in some cases, on the skills, education, or train-
23 ing needed to perform the work.

24 (4) Classifying public safety telecommunicators
25 as a protective service occupation would correct an

1 inaccurate representation in the Standard Occupa-
2 tional Classification, recognize these professionals
3 for the lifesaving work they perform, and better
4 align the Standard Occupational Classification with
5 related classification systems.

6 (b) STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYS-
7 TEM.—The Director of the Office of Management and
8 Budget shall, not later than 30 days after the date of the
9 enactment of this Act, categorize public safety telecommu-
10 nicators as a protective service occupation under the
11 Standard Occupational Classification system.

12 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KARI'S LAW**
13 **ACT OF 2017.**

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
16 means the Federal Communications Commission.

17 (2) MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM.—The
18 term “multi-line telephone system” has the meaning
19 given the term in section 721(f) of the Communica-
20 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 623(f)).

21 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days
22 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector Gen-
23 eral of the Commission shall publish a report regarding
24 the enforcement by the Commission of section 721 of the

1 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 623), which shall
2 include—

3 (1) a summary of the extent to which multi-line
4 telephone system manufacturers and vendors have
5 complied with that section;

6 (2) potential difficulties and obstacles in com-
7 plying with that section;

8 (3) recommendations to the Commission, if nec-
9 essary, on ways to improve the policies of the Com-
10 mission to better enforce that section; and

11 (4) recommendations to Congress, if necessary,
12 on further legislation that could mitigate problems
13 like those that are addressed by that section.

○