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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to designate 9–8–8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. STEWART introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to designate 9–8–8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line, 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 “National Suicide Hot-
3 line Designation Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR NATIONAL**
5 **SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH**
6 **CRISIS HOTLINE SYSTEM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(e) of the Commu-
8 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)) is amended by
9 adding at the end the following:

10 “(4) UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR NA-
11 TIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH
12 CRISIS HOTLINE SYSTEM.—The Commission and any
13 agency or entity to which the Commission has dele-
14 gated authority under this subsection shall designate
15 9–8–8 as the universal telephone number within the
16 United States for the purpose of the national suicide
17 prevention and mental health crisis hotline system
18 operating through the National Suicide Prevention
19 Lifeline maintained by the Assistant Secretary for
20 Mental Health and Substance Use under section
21 520E–3 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
22 290bb–36c) and through the Veterans Crisis Line
23 maintained by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
24 under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States
25 Code. The designation shall apply to both wireline
26 and wireless telephone service.”.

1 (b) DEADLINE.—The designation required by the
2 amendment made by subsection (a) shall be made not later
3 than the date that is 1 year after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act.

5 **SEC. 3. STATE AUTHORITY OVER FEES.**

6 (a) AUTHORITY.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act, any
8 amendment made by this Act, the Communications
9 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), or any Com-
10 mission regulation or order may prevent the imposi-
11 tion and collection of a fee or charge applicable to
12 a commercial mobile service or an IP-enabled voice
13 service specifically designated by a State, a political
14 subdivision of a State, an Indian Tribe, or village or
15 regional corporation serving a region established
16 pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
17 Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 - 1624; 85 Stat. 688 et seq.)
18 for the support or implementation of 9–8–8 services,
19 if the fee or charge is held in a sequestered account
20 to be obligated or expended only in support of 9–8–
21 8 services, or enhancements of such services, as
22 specified in the provision of State or local law adopt-
23 ing the fee or charge.

24 (2) LIMIT ON FEE OR CHARGE.—For each class
25 of subscribers to IP-enabled voice services, the fee or

1 charge may not exceed the amount of any such fee
2 or charge applicable to the same class of subscribers
3 to telecommunications services.

4 (b) FEE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT.—To ensure effi-
5 ciency, transparency, and accountability in the collection
6 and expenditure of a fee or charge for the support or im-
7 plementation of 9–8–8 services, not later than 1 year after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-
9 after, the Commission shall submit to the Committees on
10 Commerce, Science and Transportation and Appropria-
11 tions of the Senate and the Committees on Energy and
12 Commerce and Appropriations of the House of Represent-
13 atives a report that—

14 (1) details the status in each State of the collec-
15 tion and distribution of such fees or charges; and

16 (2) includes findings on the amount of revenues
17 obligated or expended by each State or political sub-
18 division thereof for any purpose other than the pur-
19 pose for which any such fees or charges are speci-
20 fied.

21 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) COMMERCIAL MOBILE SERVICE.—The term
23 “commercial mobile service” has the meaning given
24 that term under section 332(d) of the Communica-
25 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)).

1 (2) IP-ENABLED VOICE SERVICE.—The term
2 “IP-enabled voice service” has the meaning given
3 that term by section 9.3 of the Commission’s regula-
4 tions (47 C.F.R. 9.3), as those regulations may be
5 amended by the Commission from time to time.

6 (3) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
7 ing given that term in section 7 of the Wireless
8 Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (47
9 U.S.C. 615b).

10 (4) TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE.—The
11 term “telecommunications service” has the meaning
12 given that term in section 3 of the Communications
13 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

14 **SEC. 4. LOCATION IDENTIFICATION REPORT.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall
17 submit to the appropriate committees a report that exam-
18 ines the feasibility and cost of including an automatic
19 dispatchable location that would be conveyed with a 9–
20 8–8 call, regardless of the technological platform used and
21 including with calls from multi-line telephone systems (as
22 defined in section 6502 of the Middle Class Tax Relief
23 and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1471) identifica-
24 tion or equivalent information features over the 9–8–8
25 network.

1 (b) DEFINITION.—In this section:

2 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES.—The term
3 “appropriate committees” means the following:

4 (A) The Committee on Commerce, Science,
5 and Transportation of the Senate.

6 (B) The Committee on Health, Education,
7 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

8 (C) The Committee on Energy and Com-
9 merce of the House of Representatives.

10 (2) DISPATCHABLE LOCATION.—The term
11 “dispatchable location” means the street address of
12 the calling party and additional information such as
13 room number, floor number, or similar information
14 necessary to adequately identify the location of the
15 calling party.