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,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2019”.

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

(a) In general.—Section 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) Universal telephone number for national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system.—The Commission and any agency or entity to which the Commission has delegated authority under this subsection shall designate 9–8–8 as the universal telephone number within the United States for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline maintained by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use under section 520E–3 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c) and through the Veterans Crisis Line maintained by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code. The designation shall apply to both wireline and wireless telephone service.”.
(b) **DEADLINE.**—The designation required by the amendment made by subsection (a) shall be made not later than the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this Act, any amendment made by this Act, the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), or any Commission regulation or order may prevent the imposition and collection of a fee or charge applicable to a commercial mobile service or an IP-enabled voice service specifically designated by a State, a political subdivision of a State, an Indian Tribe, or village or regional corporation serving a region established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 - 1624; 85 Stat. 688 et seq.) for the support or implementation of 9–8–8 services, if the fee or charge is held in a sequestered account to be obligated or expended only in support of 9–8–8 services, or enhancements of such services, as specified in the provision of State or local law adopting the fee or charge.

(2) **LIMIT ON FEE OR CHARGE.**—For each class of subscribers to IP-enabled voice services, the fee or
charge may not exceed the amount of any such fee
or charge applicable to the same class of subscribers
to telecommunications services.

(b) Fee Accountability Report.—To ensure effi-
ciency, transparency, and accountability in the collection
and expenditure of a fee or charge for the support or im-
plementation of 9–8–8 services, not later than 1 year after
the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-
after, the Commission shall submit to the Committees on
Commerce, Science and Transportation and Appropri-
tions of the Senate and the Committees on Energy and
Commerce and Appropriations of the House of Represent-
atives a report that—

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

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

(c) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Commercial Mobile Service.—The term
“commercial mobile service” has the meaning given
that term under section 332(d) of the Communica-
tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)).
(2) IP-ENABLED VOICE SERVICE.—The term “IP-enabled voice service” has the meaning given that term by section 9.3 of the Commission’s regulations (47 C.F.R. 9.3), as those regulations may be amended by the Commission from time to time.

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

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

SEC. 4. LOCATION IDENTIFICATION REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the appropriate committees a report that examines the feasibility and cost of including an automatic dispatchable location that would be conveyed with a 9–8–8 call, regardless of the technological platform used and including with calls from multi-line telephone systems (as defined in section 6502 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1471) identification or equivalent information features over the 9–8–8 network.
(b) DEFINITION.—In this section:

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

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

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

(C) The Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

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