

By: Paddie

H.B. No. 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring direct access to 9-1-1 service from certain telephone systems and Internet Protocol services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as Kari's Law.

SECTION 2. Subtitle B, Title 9, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 771A to read as follows:

CHAPTER 771A. ACCESS TO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN

GENERAL

Sec. 771A.001. DIRECT ACCESS TO 9-1-1 SERVICE REQUIRED. (a)

In this chapter:

(1) "Business service user" means a user of business service that provides telecommunications service, including 9-1-1 service, to end users through a publicly or privately owned telephone switch.

(2) "Commission" means the Commission on State Emergency Communications.

(3) "Emergency communication district" means:

(A) a public agency or group of public agencies acting jointly that provided 9-1-1 service before September 1, 1987, or that had voted or contracted before that date to provide that service; or

(B) a district created under Subchapter B, C, D, F, or G, Chapter 772.

1 (4) "Internet Protocol enabled service" has the
2 meaning assigned by Section 51.002, Utilities Code.

3 (5) "Telephone system" includes a multiline telephone
4 system.

5 (b) This section applies to the extent the section is not
6 inconsistent with or preempted by federal law.

7 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, a business service user
8 that provides residential or business facilities, owns or leases a
9 telephone system or an equivalent system that uses Internet
10 Protocol enabled service, and provides outbound dialing capacity or
11 access shall configure the system to allow a person initiating a
12 9-1-1 call on the system to access 9-1-1 service by dialing the
13 digits 9-1-1 without an additional code, digit, prefix, postfix, or
14 trunk-access code.

15 (d) The commission may adopt rules to implement this section
16 for areas that are governed by a regional plan, and an emergency
17 communication district may adopt those rules in accordance with
18 Section 771.062.

19 (e) On the request of the business service user, the
20 commission, an emergency communication district, or a home-rule
21 municipality that independently operates a 9-1-1 system shall
22 provide assistance to a business service user that is within the
23 applicable governmental entity's jurisdiction in complying with
24 this section.

25 Sec. 771A.002. 9-1-1 ADDRESS INFORMATION FOR CERTAIN
26 BUSINESS SERVICE USERS. A business service user described by
27 Section 771A.001(c) must furnish 9-1-1 address information for each

1 line of the multiline telephone system to the applicable
2 governmental entity that operates a 9-1-1 system. The 9-1-1
3 address information must indicate the room number or similar
4 designation of a portion of the structure or building for each line
5 of the multiline telephone system.

6 SECTION 3. A business service user, as defined by Section
7 771A.001(a), Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, shall
8 comply with Sections 771A.001 and 771A.002, Health and Safety Code,
9 as added by this Act, not later than September 1, 2016.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.