

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2125

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 13, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

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 “Public Safety and Eco-
5 nomic Security Communications Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENSURING THE INTEGRITY OF VOICE COMMUNICA-**
 2 **TIONS.**

3 Part II of title II of the Communications Act of 1934
 4 (47 U.S.C. 251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
 5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 262. ENSURING THE INTEGRITY OF VOICE COMMU-**
 7 **NICATIONS.**

8 “(a) **REGISTRATION AND COMPLIANCE BY INTER-**
 9 **MEDIATE PROVIDERS.**—An intermediate provider that of-
 10 fers or holds itself out as offering the capability to trans-
 11 mit covered voice communications from one destination to
 12 another and that charges any rate to any other entity (in-
 13 cluding an affiliated entity) for the transmission shall—

14 “(1) register with the Commission; and

15 “(2) comply with the service quality standards
 16 for such transmission to be established by the Com-
 17 mission under subsection (c)(1)(B).

18 “(b) **REQUIRED USE OF REGISTERED INTER-**
 19 **MEDIATE PROVIDERS.**—A covered provider may not use
 20 an intermediate provider to transmit covered voice com-
 21 munications unless such intermediate provider is reg-
 22 istered under subsection (a)(1).

23 “(c) **COMMISSION RULES.**—

24 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days
 25 after the date of the enactment of this section, the
 26 Commission shall promulgate rules to establish—

1 “(A) a registry to record registrations
2 under subsection (a)(1); and

3 “(B) service quality standards for the
4 transmission of covered voice communications
5 by intermediate providers.

6 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In promulgating the
7 rules required by paragraph (1), the Commission
8 shall—

9 “(A) ensure the integrity of the trans-
10 mission of covered voice communications to all
11 customers in the United States; and

12 “(B) prevent unjust or unreasonable dis-
13 crimination among areas of the United States
14 in the delivery of covered voice communications.

15 “(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REGISTRY.—The
16 Commission shall make the registry established under sub-
17 section (e)(1)(A) publicly available on the website of the
18 Commission.

19 “(e) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.—The requirements of
20 this section shall apply regardless of the format by which
21 any communication or service is provided, the protocol or
22 format by which the transmission of such communication
23 or service is achieved, or the regulatory classification of
24 such communication or service.

1 “(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
2 tion shall be construed to affect the regulatory classifica-
3 tion of any communication or service.

4 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) COVERED PROVIDER.—The term ‘covered
6 provider’ has the meaning given the term in section
7 64.2101 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or
8 any successor thereto.

9 “(2) COVERED VOICE COMMUNICATION.—The
10 term ‘covered voice communication’ means a voice
11 communication (including any related signaling in-
12 formation) that is generated—

13 “(A) from the placement of a call from a
14 connection using a North American Numbering
15 Plan resource or a call placed to a connection
16 using such a numbering resource; and

17 “(B) through any service provided by a
18 covered provider.

19 “(3) INTERMEDIATE PROVIDER.—The term ‘in-
20 termediate provider’ means any entity that—

21 “(A) carries or processes traffic that is
22 generated from the placement of a call from a
23 connection using a North American Numbering
24 Plan resource or a call placed to a connection
25 using such a numbering resource; and

1 “(B) does not itself originate or terminate
2 such traffic in the context of the carriage or
3 processing.”.

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