



PUBLIC NOTICE

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WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES COMPLIANCE DATE OF JULY 15, 2024 FOR SAFE CONNECTIONS ACT RULES

WC Docket Nos. 22-238, 11-42, 21-450

On November 16, 2023, the Commission adopted the *Safe Connections Act Report and Order* to implement the Safe Connections Act of 2022 (SCA).¹ In that rulemaking, the Commission adopted rules to codify and implement the line separation provisions in the SCA. The Commission required covered providers to comply with the rules implementing the SCA's line separation provisions within six months after the effective date of the *Order*, or after review of the rules by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is completed, whichever is later.²

On May 3, 2024, OMB completed its review of the Commission's rules implementing the line separation provisions of the SCA. Accordingly, compliance with the line separation requirements adopted by the Commission in the *Safe Connections Act Report and Order* is required by July 15, 2024.

We note separately, as explained in the *Safe Connections Act Report and Order*, that the compliance deadline for protecting the privacy of calls and text messages to domestic violence hotlines will be no earlier than eight months after the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) has published the database download file specification, which should be the final detail necessary for service providers to complete design of their systems.³ The Commission is currently working on database implementation and has yet to publish such specifications, which will be in the form of a public notice in the above-referenced dockets.

For further information regarding line separation provisions, contact Melissa Kirkel, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-7958 or Melissa.Kirkel@fcc.gov. For further information regarding the domestic violence hotline database, contact Ed Krachmer, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-1525 or Edward.Krachmer@fcc.gov.

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¹ See *Supporting Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence* et al., WC Docket No. 22-238 et al., Report and Order, FCC 23-96 (2023) (*Safe Connections Act Report and Order*); see also Safe Connections Act of 2022, Pub. L. No. 117-223, 116 Stat. 2280 (Safe Connections Act or SCA). The *Safe Connections Act Report and Order* was effective on January 14, 2024. See 88 FR 84406 (Dec. 5, 2023), 88 FR 88261 (Dec. 21, 2023) (announcing a final rule correction). Compliance with the revisions to the Commission's part 54 rules implementing the emergency lifeline support provisions of the SCA is delayed until the Office of Management and Budget completes review of information collection requirements. The Commission will announce the compliance date in a subsequent Public Notice.

² See *Safe Connections Act Report and Order* at 56, para. 102.

³ *Id.* at 71, para. 138. In addition, the compliance deadline will be no earlier than two months after the Bureau announces that the database administrator has made the initial database download file available for testing. *Id.* at 71-72, para. 138. Smaller service providers are afforded a later compliance deadline. *Id.* at 72-74, paras. 139-42.