

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 2452

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the provision of behavioral health crisis services,
including the establishment of crisis centers and mobile crisis
teams; authorizing a fee.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by
adding Subchapter P to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER P. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS SERVICES

Sec. 531.601. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Crisis center" means a state-designated 988
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline center participating in the National
Suicide Prevention Lifeline network to respond to statewide or
regional communications.

(2) "Mobile crisis team" means a regionally located
multidisciplinary response behavioral health team.

Sec. 531.602. 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE. (a) The 988 suicide and crisis lifeline advisory
committee is established to advise the commission and make
recommendations regarding implementing a state-designated 988
suicide and crisis lifeline.

(b) The advisory committee is composed of representatives
of the following:

(1) a crisis center;

(2) a 9-1-1 call center;

1 (3) a local mental health authority;

2 (4) the Department of Public Safety of the State of
3 Texas;

4 (5) a hospital emergency department;

5 (6) a state court;

6 (7) an individual or family member or caregiver of an
7 individual who has lived experience with suicide prevention or
8 usage of behavioral health crisis services; and

9 (8) a behavioral health crisis service provider.

10 (c) The executive commissioner shall appoint members to the
11 advisory committee.

12 Sec. 531.603. ESTABLISHMENT OF CRISIS CENTERS AND MOBILE
13 CRISIS TEAMS. (a) The commission shall establish:

14 (1) at least one crisis center to provide crisis
15 stabilization services to individuals in this state who are
16 accessing the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline; and

17 (2) mobile crisis teams to respond to behavioral
18 health crises and provide crisis stabilization services.

19 (b) In establishing a crisis center, the executive
20 commissioner shall adopt rules to allow information sharing and
21 communication between a crisis center and a mobile crisis team to
22 enhance crisis care coordination.

23 (c) In establishing a mobile crisis team, the commission
24 must:

25 (1) design the team in partnership with members of the
26 community to be served, including people with lived experience
27 using crisis services;

1 (2) staff the team with personnel who reflect the
2 demographics of the community served; and

3 (3) require the team to collect customer service data
4 from individuals served by the team.

5 Sec. 531.604. CRISIS CENTER POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) A
6 crisis center established by the commission shall:

7 (1) contract with the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline;

8 (2) satisfy the requirements of and best practices
9 identified by the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline;

10 (3) provide and report any applicable data;

11 (4) be equipped to deploy a mobile crisis team;

12 (5) satisfy the requirements for serving at-risk and
13 specialized populations as identified by the Substance Abuse and
14 Mental Health Services Administration;

15 (6) provide linguistically and culturally competent
16 care, including by requiring training and providing policies for
17 transferring a crisis center caller to an appropriate specialized
18 center within the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline network; and

19 (7) provide follow-up services to individuals who call
20 the crisis center.

21 (b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules to allow
22 appropriate information sharing and communication across crisis
23 response systems and emergency response systems to provide
24 real-time crisis care coordination.

25 Sec. 531.605. SERVING AT-RISK AND SPECIALIZED POPULATIONS.

26 A crisis center shall serve at-risk and specialized populations as
27 identified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

1 Administration. The populations served must include the LGBTQ
2 community, youth, minorities, individuals residing in rural areas,
3 veterans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and individuals with
4 co-occurring substance use disorder and mental illness.

5 Sec. 531.606. CRISIS CARE COORDINATION. (a) The
6 commission shall ensure that an individual who contacts a crises
7 center is provided ongoing care through active collaboration and
8 coordination of services among crisis centers and mental health and
9 substance use disorder treatment providers, community mental
10 health centers, certified community behavioral health clinics,
11 community behavioral health centers, mobile crisis teams, hospital
12 emergency departments, and inpatient psychiatric settings.

13 (b) The commission may contract with the entities listed
14 under Subsection (a) to ensure the coordination of services.

15 Sec. 531.607. 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE TRUST FUND.
16 (a) The 988 suicide and crisis lifeline trust fund is established
17 as a trust fund to be held by the comptroller outside the state
18 treasury and administered by the commission.

19 (b) The trust fund consists of:

20 (1) revenue derived from the fee described by Section
21 531.608;

22 (2) legislative appropriations of money for the
23 purposes of this subchapter;

24 (3) available federal funding this state allocates for
25 the purposes of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline;

26 (4) gifts, grants, and donations received by this
27 state for the purposes of the trust fund;

1 (5) interest, dividends, and other income of the trust
2 fund; and

3 (6) money from any other source that is deposited in or
4 transferred to the trust fund.

5 (c) Money deposited in the trust fund may only be used to:

6 (1) implement, maintain, or improve the 988 Suicide &
7 Crisis Lifeline, including personnel and technological
8 infrastructure improvements necessary to achieve operational and
9 clinical standards and best practices as provided by the National
10 Suicide Prevention Lifeline;

11 (2) provide funding for crisis outreach and
12 stabilization services by directly responding to the 988 Suicide &
13 Crisis Lifeline;

14 (3) provide funding for uninsured individuals
15 receiving crisis and stabilization services;

16 (4) provide personnel for crisis centers and mobile
17 crisis teams;

18 (5) fund data provision, reporting, participation in
19 evaluations, and other related quality improvement activities; and

20 (6) administer, oversee, and evaluate the trust fund.

21 (d) The state may not transfer or use trust fund assets for
22 any purpose other than the uses provided in this subchapter.

23 (e) The executive commissioner shall submit an annual
24 report to the legislature and the Federal Communications Commission
25 detailing the trust fund deposits and expenditures in the preceding
26 year.

27 Sec. 531.608. 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE FEE. (a) The

1 commission may impose a 988 suicide and crisis lifeline service fee
2 to supplement any federal, state, or local funding for suicide
3 prevention or behavioral health crisis services on each:

4 (1) local exchange access line or equivalent local
5 exchange access line, not including public telephone equipment
6 operated by coin or by card reader;

7 (2) wireless telecommunications connection;

8 (3) Voice over Internet Protocol service connection;

9 and

10 (4) purchase of a prepaid wireless telecommunications
11 service by any method.

12 (b) The executive commissioner by rule shall set the fee in
13 an amount sufficient to cover the costs of creating, operating, and
14 maintaining the suicide prevention services provided under this
15 subchapter, according to the national guidelines for crisis
16 services. The commission shall periodically adjust the fee amount
17 as necessary to provide for continuous operation, volume increases,
18 and maintenance.

19 (c) Revenue from the fee shall be deposited in the 988
20 suicide and crisis lifeline trust fund established under Section
21 531.607.

22 (d) A fee collected under this section may only be used to
23 offset costs as provided by 47 U.S.C. Section 251a.

24 (e) Revenue from the fee may not be used for expenses that
25 are:

26 (1) reimbursable through Medicaid, Medicare, or
27 another insurer or governmental program; or

1 (2) covered because the service recipient's name and
2 health coverage information cannot be obtained or billed.

3 (f) The executive commissioner shall submit an annual
4 report to the legislature and the Federal Communications Commission
5 detailing the revenue generated by the fee in the preceding year.

6 Sec. 531.609. ANNUAL REPORT. (a) The commission shall
7 prepare an annual report of the usage of crisis centers and the
8 services provided by the centers.

9 (b) The commission shall present the annual report to the
10 legislature and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
11 Administration.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.