

By: Landgraf, Lambert, Martinez Fischer,
Jones of Harris, Lalani

H.B. No. 5342

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the provision of behavioral health crisis services,
including measures to fund and support the 988 Suicide and Crisis
Lifeline and related services.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 547, Government Code, is amended by
adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER K. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS SERVICES

Sec. 547.0551. 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE TRUST FUND.

(a) In this section, "trust company" means the Texas Treasury
Safekeeping Trust Company.

(b) The 988 suicide and crisis lifeline trust fund is
established as a trust fund outside the state treasury to be
administered by the commission.

(c) The trust fund consists of:

(1) gifts, grants, and donations, including federal
funds, received by this state for the purposes of the trust fund;
and

(2) interest, dividends, and other income of the trust
fund.

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

(1) implement, maintain, or improve the 988 Suicide &
Crisis Lifeline, including personnel and technological
infrastructure improvements necessary to achieve operational and

1 clinical standards and best practices as provided by the 988
2 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline; and

3 (2) pay the trust company's expenses of managing the
4 trust fund's assets.

5 (e) The trust company shall hold and invest the trust
6 fund. The trust fund may be invested with the state treasury pool
7 and may be pooled with other state assets for purposes of
8 investment.

9 (f) The overall objective for the investment of the trust
10 fund is to maintain sufficient liquidity to meet the needs of the
11 trust fund.

12 (g) The trust company may acquire, exchange, sell,
13 supervise, manage, or retain any kind of investment that a prudent
14 investor, exercising reasonable care, skill, and caution, would
15 acquire or retain in light of the purposes, terms, distribution
16 requirements, and other circumstances of the trust fund then
17 prevailing, taking into consideration the investment of all the
18 assets of the trust fund rather than a single investment.

19 (h) The reasonable expenses of managing the trust fund's
20 assets shall be paid from the trust fund.

21 (i) The commission at least annually, and more frequently as
22 appropriate, shall provide to the trust company a forecast of the
23 cash flows into and out of the trust fund to ensure the trust
24 company is able to achieve the purposes of this section.

25 (j) The state may not transfer or use trust fund assets for
26 any purpose other than the uses provided in this section.

27 Sec. 547.0552. CRISIS CENTER ANNUAL REPORT. (a) In this

1 section, "crisis center" means a center participating in the 988
2 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline network to respond to statewide or
3 regional communications.

4 (b) The commission shall prepare an annual report of the
5 usage of crisis centers in this state and the services provided by
6 the centers.

7 (c) The commission shall present the annual report to the
8 legislature and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
9 Administration.

10 SECTION 2. (a) In this section, "commission" means the
11 Health and Human Services Commission.

12 (b) The commission, in collaboration with the Commission on
13 State Emergency Communications and any other state agency the
14 commission determines appropriate, shall conduct a study on the
15 implementation of funding mechanisms to support the operation of
16 the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, including an evaluation of the
17 feasibility of establishing a service fee on telecommunication
18 services.

19 (c) The study must evaluate how the establishment of a
20 telecommunication service fee or other funding mechanism will help:

21 (1) implement, maintain, or improve the 988 Suicide &
22 Crisis Lifeline, including providing for sufficient staffing
23 levels, implementing technological improvements, and developing
24 the capacity of the lifeline to respond to text messages and other
25 online messages;

26 (2) enhance local response for crisis intervention
27 services; and

1 (3) meet any increased demand on crisis intervention
2 services as a result of any public awareness campaigns regarding
3 the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

4 (d) Not later than December 1, 2026, the commission shall
5 prepare and submit a report to the legislature on the findings of
6 the study, including any recommendations for enhancing the crisis
7 intervention services capacity of this state and an analysis of the
8 efficacy of implementing a telecommunication service fee or other
9 funding mechanism for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

10 (e) This section expires September 1, 2027.

11 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.