86R5818 EAS-F

By:  Thierry H.B. No. 1578

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing the Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention Task Force.

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

SECTION 1.  DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1)  "Commission" means the Health and Human Services Commission.

(2)  "Executive commissioner" means the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

(3)  "N-1-1 dial code" means a three-digit telephone number that connects users to a public safety answering point through dialing the three-digit telephone number.

(4)  "Statewide mental health crisis line" means a telephonic or other electronic system operated 24 hours a day to connect a mental or behavioral health professional with persons experiencing a mental health crisis.

(5)  "Task force" means the Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention Task Force.

SECTION 2.  ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE. The Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention Task Force is established by the executive commissioner to study the efficacy and feasibility of creating a statewide mental health crisis line for treating mental health crises and preventing suicide.

SECTION 3.  COMPOSITION OF TASK FORCE. The task force is composed of:

(1)  the governor's designee;

(2)  two members of the senate, appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(3)  two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house; and

(4)  10 members appointed by the executive commissioner as follows:

(A)  two representatives from the Commission on State Emergency Communications;

(B)  two representatives from the commission's mental health crisis services office;

(C)  two mental or behavioral health clinicians licensed to practice in this state;

(D)  two physicians licensed to practice in this state, one of whom specializes in psychiatry;

(E)  one social worker; and

(F)  one community advocate in a relevant field.

SECTION 4.  CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR. The executive commissioner shall appoint from among the task force members a chair and vice chair.

SECTION 5.  MEETINGS; QUORUM. (a) The task force shall meet at the call of the chair. The chair shall set the agenda for each meeting.

(b)  The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes the action of the task force.

SECTION 6.  COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT. (a)  Except as provided by Subsection (b), a member of the task force may not receive compensation or reimbursement for service on the task force.

(b)  A task force member who is a legislator engaged in the business of the task force is entitled to compensation and expenses as provided by Chapter 660, Government Code.

SECTION 7.  STUDY; REPORT. (a) In cooperation with the commission, the task force shall study:

(1)  the efficacy and feasibility of designating an N-1-1 dial code or another dialing code for use as a statewide mental health crisis line; and

(2)  the advantages and disadvantages of using a particular statewide N-1-1 dial code or another dialing code for a statewide mental health crisis line.

(b)  Not later than September 1, 2020, the task force shall prepare and submit to the legislature and the commission a written report containing the results of the study and a recommendation as to whether to establish a particular N-1-1 dial code or other covered dialing code for use as a statewide mental health crisis line.

(c)  If the report submitted under Subsection (b) includes a recommendation to establish a particular N-1-1 dial code or other covered dialing code for use as a statewide mental health crisis line, the report must also include:

(1)  an outline of the logistics of designating that dial code;

(2)  an estimate of the costs associated with designating that dial code, including costs incurred by:

(A)  service providers, including:

(i)  translation changes in the network; and

(ii)  cell site analysis and reprogramming by wireless carriers; and

(B)  the state and political subdivisions;

(3)  recommendations for designating the dial code;

(4)  a cost-benefit analysis comparing the recommended dial code with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, as the lifeline exists on the date the report is submitted; and

(5)  other recommendations as appropriate for improving the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline generally, which may include:

(A)  increased public education and awareness; and

(B)  improved infrastructure and operations.

SECTION 8.  FUNDING. The task force, through the commission, may accept gifts and grants from any source to fund the duties of the commission and the task force under this Act.

SECTION 9.  APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW. Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the task force.

SECTION 10.  EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 1, 2021.

SECTION 11.  EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.