

By: Thierry

H.B. No. 1578

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to establishing the Mental Health Crisis and Suicide
3 Prevention Task Force.

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

5 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 SECTION 3. COMPOSITION OF TASK FORCE. The task force is

1 composed of:

2 (1) the governor's designee;

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

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

7 (4) 10 members appointed by the executive commissioner
8 as follows:

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

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

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

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

17 (E) one social worker; and

18 (F) one community advocate in a relevant field.

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

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

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

27 SECTION 6. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT. (a) Except as

1 provided by Subsection (b), a member of the task force may not
2 receive compensation or reimbursement for service on the task
3 force.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (2) an estimate of the costs associated with

1 designating that dial code, including costs incurred by:

2 (A) service providers, including:

3 (i) translation changes in the network; and

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

6 (B) the state and political subdivisions;

7 (3) recommendations for designating the dial code;

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

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

14 (A) increased public education and awareness;
15 and

16 (B) improved infrastructure and operations.

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

20 SECTION 9. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW. Chapter [2110](#),
21 Government Code, does not apply to the task force.

22 SECTION 10. EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 1,
23 2021.

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