

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 188

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 547, Government Code, as effective April
1, 2025, is amended by adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER K. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS SERVICES

Sec. 547.0501. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

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

(2) "Mobile crisis outreach team" means a team of
qualified mental health professionals who provide crisis services,
including:

(A) facilitating emergency care services;

(B) providing urgent care services; and

(C) providing crisis follow-up and relapse
prevention services.

(3) "Youth crisis outreach team" means a mobile crisis
outreach team designed primarily to serve children or adolescents.

Sec. 547.0502. CRISIS CENTER STANDARDS. (a) A crisis
center operating in this state shall:

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

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

4 (3) provide and report any applicable data;

5 (4) be equipped to deploy a mobile crisis outreach
6 team or youth crisis outreach team;

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

10 (6) provide linguistically and culturally competent
11 care, including by requiring training and providing policies for
12 transferring a crisis center caller to an appropriate mental health
13 care provider; and

14 (7) provide follow-up services to individuals who call
15 the crisis center, as appropriate.

16 (b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules to allow
17 appropriate information sharing and communication across crisis
18 response systems and emergency response systems to provide
19 real-time crisis care coordination.

20 Sec. 547.0503. CRISIS CARE COORDINATION. (a) The
21 commission shall ensure that an individual who contacts a crisis
22 center is provided ongoing care through active collaboration and
23 coordination of services among crisis centers and mental health and
24 substance use disorder treatment providers, community mental
25 health centers, certified community behavioral health clinics,
26 community behavioral health centers, mobile crisis outreach teams,
27 youth crisis outreach teams, hospital emergency departments, and

1 inpatient psychiatric settings.

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

4 Sec. 547.0504. 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE TRUST FUND.

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

8 (b) The trust fund consists of:

9 (1) revenue derived from the fee described by Section
10 547.0505;

11 (2) legislative appropriations of money for the
12 purposes of this subchapter;

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

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

17 (5) interest, dividends, and other income of the trust
18 fund; and

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

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

22 (1) implement, maintain, or improve the 988 Suicide &
23 Crisis Lifeline, including personnel and technological
24 infrastructure improvements necessary to achieve operational and
25 clinical standards and best practices as provided by the National
26 Suicide Prevention Lifeline;

27 (2) provide funding for crisis outreach and other

1 services a community mental health center provides in response to
2 the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline;

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

5 (4) provide personnel for crisis centers, mobile
6 crisis outreach teams, and youth crisis outreach teams;

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

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

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

12 (e) The executive commissioner shall submit an annual
13 report to the legislature and the Federal Communications Commission
14 detailing the trust fund deposits and expenditures in the preceding
15 year.

16 Sec. 547.0505. 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE FEE. (a)
17 The commission, in collaboration with the Commission on State
18 Emergency Communications, may impose a 988 suicide and crisis
19 lifeline service fee to supplement any federal, state, or local
20 funding for suicide prevention or behavioral health crisis services
21 on each:

22 (1) local exchange access line or equivalent local
23 exchange access line, not including public telephone equipment
24 operated by coin or by card reader;

25 (2) wireless telecommunications connection;

26 (3) Voice over Internet Protocol service connection;

27 and

1 (4) purchase of a prepaid wireless telecommunications
2 service by any method.

3 (b) The executive commissioner by rule shall set the fee in
4 an amount sufficient to cover the costs of creating, operating, and
5 maintaining the suicide prevention services provided under this
6 subchapter, according to the national guidelines for crisis
7 services. The commission shall periodically adjust the fee amount
8 as necessary to provide for continuous operation, volume increases,
9 and maintenance.

10 (c) Revenue from the fee shall be deposited in the 988
11 suicide and crisis lifeline trust fund established under Section
12 547.0504.

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

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

17 (1) reimbursable through Medicaid, Medicare, or
18 another insurer or governmental program; or

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

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

24 Sec. 547.0506. ANNUAL REPORT. (a) The commission shall
25 prepare an annual report of the usage of crisis centers and the
26 services provided by the centers.

27 (b) The commission shall present the annual report to the

1 legislature and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
2 Administration.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.