

HOUSE BILL No. 2281

By Committee on Health and Human Services

2-9

1 AN ACT concerning public health; establishing 988 as the suicide
2 prevention and mental health crisis hotline in Kansas; providing for the
3 Kansas department for aging and disability services to provide
4 oversight and support to hotline centers; prescribing hotline center
5 duties and provision of services; telecommunication providers duties;
6 collection and disbursement of fees for the 988 hotline.

7
8 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

9 Section 1. Sections 1 through 5, and amendments thereto, shall be
10 known and may be cited as the living, investing in values and ending
11 suicide (LIVES) act.

12 Sec 2. As used in sections 1 through 5, and amendments thereto:

13 (a) "Crisis-receiving and stabilization services" means short-term
14 services with capacity for diagnosis, initial management, observation,
15 crisis stabilization and follow-up referral services.

16 (b) "Department" means the Kansas department for aging and
17 disability services.

18 (c) "Exchange telecommunications service" means the same as
19 provided in K.S.A. 12-5363, and amendments thereto.

20 (d) "Hotline" means the 988 suicide prevention and mental health
21 crisis hotline or its successor maintained by the assistant secretary for
22 mental health and substance use under 42 U.S.C. § 290bb-36c.

23 (e) "Hotline center" means a 988 suicide prevention and mental
24 health crisis hotline center, designated by the Kansas department for aging
25 and disability services, participating in the national suicide prevention
26 lifeline network to respond to statewide or regional 988 calls.

27 (f) "Mobile crisis team" means a team of behavioral health
28 professionals and peers that provide professional, community-based, crisis
29 intervention services, including, but not limited to, de-escalation and
30 stabilization for individuals who are experiencing a behavioral health
31 crisis. Such services are separate and distinct from 911 emergency
32 responses of emergency medical services or law enforcement.

33 (g) "NSPL" means the national suicide prevention lifeline, the
34 national network of local, certified crisis centers that provide free and
35 confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional
36 distress 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

- 1 (h) "Peer specialist" means an individual certified by the department
- 2 to provide supportive services on the basis of such individual's personal,
- 3 lived experience of mental illness or addiction and recovery.
- 4 (i) "Provider" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 12-5363, and
- 5 amendments thereto.
- 6 (j) "Secretary" means the secretary for aging and disability services.
- 7 (k) "Services" means behavioral health services.
- 8 (l) "Service user" means any person who is provided exchange
- 9 telecommunications service, wireless telecommunications service, VoIP
- 10 service, prepaid wireless service or any other service capable of contacting
- 11 a hotline center by dialing 988.
- 12 (m) "VCL" means the veterans crisis line maintained by the United
- 13 States secretary of veterans affairs under 38 U.S.C. § 1720F(h).
- 14 (n) "VoIP service" means the same as provided in K.S.A. 12-5363,
- 15 and amendments thereto.
- 16 (o) "Wireless telecommunications service" means the same as
- 17 provided in K.S.A. 12-5363, and amendments thereto.
- 18 Sec. 3. In accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 52.200:
- 19 (a) The Kansas department for aging and disability services shall:
- 20 (1) Prior to July 16, 2022:
- 21 (A) Designate a hotline center or network of centers to provide crisis
- 22 intervention services and care coordination to individuals accessing the
- 23 hotline for 24 hours per day, 7 days per week;
- 24 (B) create a system for information sharing and communication
- 25 between crisis and emergency response systems and hotline centers for the
- 26 purpose of real-time crisis care coordination, including, but not limited to,
- 27 deployment of crisis and outgoing services specific to a crisis response or
- 28 911 emergency responders when necessary;
- 29 (C) convene mobile crisis teams;
- 30 (D) develop guidelines for deploying services, including mobile crisis
- 31 teams, coordinating access to crisis-receiving and stabilization services or
- 32 other local resources as appropriate, and providing referrals and follow-
- 33 ups;
- 34 (E) coordinate consistent public messaging regarding the hotline with
- 35 NSPL, the department and the United States department of veterans
- 36 affairs;
- 37 (F) require training as established by NSPL for hotline center staff for
- 38 servicing high-risk and specialized populations identified by the substance
- 39 abuse and mental health services administration within the United States
- 40 department of health and human services or transferring to appropriate
- 41 specialized centers;
- 42 (G) work with the Kansas department of health and environment and
- 43 KanCare managed care organizations to develop plans for payment for

1 uninsured services;

2 (H) create an advisory board to provide guidance to the secretary and
3 gather feedback and make recommendations for hotline centers, local
4 counties and municipalities regarding the planning and implementation of
5 the hotline;

6 (I) hire a statewide suicide prevention coordinator; and

7 (J) adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this act.

8 (2) After July 16, 2022:

9 (A) Consult with the advisory board to provide guidance to the
10 secretary and gather feedback and make recommendations for hotline
11 centers, local counties and municipalities regarding usage and services
12 provided in response to calls to the hotline centers;

13 (B) fund any uninsured services provided in response to the hotline if
14 an individual receiving the services is uninsured or the services or the
15 facility are not covered by an individual's insurance; and

16 (C) at the beginning of each legislative session, submit an annual
17 report of the hotline's usage and the services provided in response to calls
18 to the hotline centers to the house of representatives standing committee
19 on health and human services and the senate standing committee on public
20 health and welfare or any successor committees.

21 (b) The hotline centers shall:

22 (1) Prior to July 16, 2022:

23 (A) Establish an agreement with the NSPL for participation within
24 the network;

25 (B) meet any training requirements for hotline center staff established
26 by the NSPL or the department in subsection (a);

27 (C) enter into memorandums of understanding with local service
28 providers to be deployed according to the guidelines established by the
29 department in subsection (a);

30 (D) coordinate access to crisis-receiving and stabilization services or
31 other local resources as appropriate according to the guidelines established
32 by the department in subsection (a);

33 (E) provide referrals and follow-ups according to the guidelines
34 established by the department in subsection (a);

35 (F) work with the United States department of veterans affairs to
36 route calls from self-designated veterans for the provision of VCL
37 services; and

38 (G) meet any requirement set forth in subsection (b)(2), if the center
39 has the capabilities to meet such provisions before July 16, 2022.

40 (2) After July 16, 2022:

41 (A) Receive all calls initiated by a service user dialing 988 from
42 providers;

43 (B) deploy crisis services, including mobile crisis teams according to

1 the guidelines established by the department in subsection (a);

2 (C) coordinate access to crisis-receiving and stabilization services or
3 other local resources as appropriate according to guidelines established by
4 the department in subsection (a);

5 (D) provide referrals and follow-ups according to the guidelines
6 established by the department in subsection (a);

7 (E) continue to meet training requirements established by the NSPL
8 and the department in subsection (a); and

9 (F) continue to work with the United States department of veterans
10 affairs to route calls from self-designated veterans for the provision of
11 VCL services.

12 (c) Providers shall:

13 (1) Prior to July 16, 2022:

14 (A) Establish 988 as the unique number for suicide prevention and
15 mental health crisis;

16 (B) transmit all calls initiated by a service user dialing 988 to the
17 current toll-free access number for the NSPL;

18 (C) complete all changes necessary to implement the designation of
19 the 988 dialing code; and

20 (D) establish a system for collecting fees and remitting such fees to
21 the 988 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline fund
22 established pursuant to section 4, and amendments thereto.

23 (2) After July 16, 2022:

24 (A) Direct all calls initiated by a user dialing 988 to hotline centers;
25 and

26 (B) collect fees and remit such fees to the 988 suicide prevention and
27 mental health crisis hotline fund established pursuant to section 4, and
28 amendments thereto.

29 Sec. 4. (a) There is hereby imposed a 988 fee in the amount of \$.50
30 per month per subscriber account of any exchange telecommunications
31 service, wireless telecommunications service, VoIP service or other service
32 capable of contacting a hotline center. Such fee shall not be imposed on
33 prepaid wireless service. It shall be the duty of each exchange
34 telecommunications service provider, wireless telecommunications service
35 provider, VoIP service provider or other service provider to remit such fees
36 to the department of revenue.

37 (b) Every billed service user shall be liable for the 988 fee until such
38 fees have been paid to the exchange telecommunications service provider,
39 wireless telecommunications service provider, VoIP service provider or
40 other service provider. All providers shall have the duty to collect the fees
41 imposed pursuant to this act. Such fees shall be added to and may be stated
42 separately in billings for the subscriber account. If stated separately in
43 billings, the fees shall be labeled "988 fees." The fees imposed by this

1 section shall be collected along with the charges for local exchange,
2 wireless, VoIP or other service in accordance with the regular billing
3 practice of the provider.

4 (c) The provider shall have no obligation to take any legal action to
5 enforce the collection of the fees imposed by this act. The provider shall
6 provide annually to the department of revenue a list of the amount of
7 uncollected 988 fees along with the names and addresses of those service
8 users that carry a balance that can be determined by the provider to be
9 nonpayment of such fees.

10 (d) The 988 fees and the amounts required to be collected therefor are
11 due monthly. The amount of such fees collected in one month by the
12 provider shall be remitted to the department of revenue not more than 15
13 days after the close of the calendar month. On or before the 15th day of
14 each calendar month following, a return for the preceding month shall be
15 filed with the department of revenue. Such return shall be in such form and
16 shall contain such information as required by the department of revenue.
17 The provider required to file the return shall deliver the return together
18 with a remittance of the amount of fees payable to the department of
19 revenue. The provider shall maintain records of the amount of any such
20 fees collected in accordance with this act for a period of three years from
21 the time the fees are collected.

22 (e) The department of revenue shall remit all 988 fees to the state
23 treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and
24 amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state
25 treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit
26 of the 988 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline fund
27 established pursuant to section 5, and amendments thereto.

28 Sec. 5. (a) There is hereby established in the state treasury the 988
29 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline fund to be administered
30 by the secretary for aging and disability services.

31 (b) Moneys from the following sources shall be credited to the fund:

32 (1) Revenue generated from the fee established in section 4, and
33 amendments thereto; and

34 (2) amounts received from any public or private entity for the
35 purposes of the fund.

36 (c) On or before the 10th of each month, the director of accounts and
37 reports shall transfer from the state general fund to the 988 suicide
38 prevention and mental health crisis hotline fund, interest earnings based
39 on:

40 (1) The average daily balance of moneys in the 988 suicide
41 prevention and mental health crisis hotline fund for the preceding month;
42 and

43 (2) the net earnings rate of the pooled money investment portfolio for

1 the preceding month.

2 (d) Moneys credited to the fund shall be used only to:

3 (1) Pay all expenses incurred in the administration of the fund; and

4 (2) provide for the necessary and reasonable costs of implementing
5 and maintaining the hotline that includes:

6 (A) The efficient and effective routing of and response to calls made
7 to the hotline to the centers, including staffing and technological
8 infrastructure enhancements necessary to meet the requirements
9 established in section 2, and amendments thereto;

10 (B) personnel and behavioral health, crisis outreach and stabilization
11 services with emphasis on expanding services to rural areas by directly
12 responding to the hotline;

13 (C) data collection and reporting, evaluations and related quality
14 improvement activities as required by the secretary;

15 (D) a statewide suicide prevention coordinator to be employed by the
16 department; and

17 (E) evidence-based suicide prevention and public promotion of the
18 hotline.

19 (e) All expenditures from the fund shall be made in accordance with
20 appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports
21 issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the secretary or the secretary's
22 designee.

23 Sec. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
24 publication in the statute book.