

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with House Amendments
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2149**

Introduced by

Senators Hogan, Cleary, Dever, Lee

Representatives O'Brien, Swiontek

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 50-06 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the creation of the 988 crisis hotline program; and to provide an
3 appropriation.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 50-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **988 crisis hotline program - Establishment.**

- 8 1. The department shall establish and implement a 988 crisis hotline program to provide
9 crisis outreach, stabilization, and acute care to individuals calling the 988 crisis hotline.
10 The department may adopt rules in accordance with chapter 28-32 for the purpose of
11 implementing this section.
- 12 2. In developing the program, the department shall:
- 13 a. Fund the 988 crisis hotline to provide intervention services and crisis care
14 coordination to individuals calling the 988 crisis hotline.
- 15 b. Contract with crisis vendors to provide or administer crisis outreach, stabilization,
16 acute care, and marketing for the 988 crisis hotline.
- 17 c. Contract with a nonprofit organization to operate the 988 crisis hotline and
18 provide intervention services and crisis care coordination to individuals calling the
19 988 crisis hotline from any jurisdiction within the state, twenty-four hours a day,
20 seven days a week. The nonprofit organization must:
- 21 (1) Have an active agreement with the administrator of the national suicide
22 prevention lifeline for participation within the network;
- 23 (2) Meet the national suicide prevention lifeline requirements for serving
24 high-risk and specialized populations; and

- 1 (3) Provide followup services to individuals accessing the 988 crisis hotline.
- 2 d. Collaborate with the national suicide prevention lifeline and the veterans crisis
- 3 line for purposes of ensuring consistent public messaging about the 988 crisis
- 4 hotline and available services.
- 5 3. For purposes of this section:
- 6 a. "988 crisis hotline" means a state-identified hotline participating in the national
- 7 suicide prevention lifeline network to respond to statewide or regional behavior
- 8 health crisis calls.
- 9 b. "National suicide prevention lifeline" means a national network of local crisis
- 10 centers maintained by the federal substance abuse and mental health services
- 11 administration which provides free and confidential emotional support to people
- 12 in suicidal crisis or emotional distress, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a
- 13 week.
- 14 c. "Veterans crisis line" means the veterans crisis line maintained by the United
- 15 States department of veterans affairs.
- 16 4. Except for action or inaction that constitutes gross negligence or willful and wanton
- 17 misconduct, each provider of a communications service and their employees, agents,
- 18 suppliers, and subcontractors are not liable for the payment of damages resulting
- 19 directly or indirectly from the total or partial failure of any transmission to an
- 20 emergency communication service or for damages resulting from the performance of
- 21 installing, maintaining, or providing 988 service.

22 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**

23 **988 ESTABLISHMENT COSTS.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in

24 the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$2,000,000 dollars, or so much of the

25 sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of

26 establishing and implementing a 988 crisis hotline program, for the biennium beginning July 1,

27 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.