

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3482

To establish a multi-stakeholder advisory committee tasked with providing detailed recommendations to address challenges to transmitting geolocation information with calls to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 13, 2023

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish a multi-stakeholder advisory committee tasked with providing detailed recommendations to address challenges to transmitting geolocation information with calls to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “988 Lifeline Location
5 Improvement Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) 911 SYSTEM SERVICE PROVIDER.—The
2 term “911 system service provider” has the meaning
3 given the term “covered 911 service provider” in
4 section 9.19(a)(4)(i) of title 47, Code of Federal
5 Regulations, or any successor regulation.

6 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
7 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
8 gress” means—

9 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
10 and Transportation of the Senate;

11 (B) the Committee on Health, Education,
12 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

13 (C) the Committee on Energy and Com-
14 merce of the House of Representatives.

15 (3) COMMITTEE.—The term “committee”
16 means the advisory committee established under sec-
17 tion 3.

18 (4) COMMUNITY BASED MENTAL HEALTH ORGA-
19 NIZATION.—The term “community based mental
20 health organization” means an organization that
21 serves individuals with mental health conditions and
22 the families of those individuals in a community set-
23 ting.

24 (5) DISPATCHABLE LOCATION.—The term
25 “dispatchable location” has the meaning given that

1 term in section 9.3 of title 47, Code of Federal Reg-
2 ulations, or any successor regulation.

3 (6) **HANDSET MANUFACTURER.**—The term
4 “handset manufacturer” means a manufacturer of
5 cellular phones.

6 (7) **LOCAL CRISIS CENTER.**—The term “local
7 crisis center” means a call center intended to receive
8 calls from the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and
9 the Veterans Crisis Line.

10 (8) **LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**—The term “local
11 government” means the government of any political
12 subdivision of a State.

13 (9) **LOW POPULATION STATE.**—The term “low
14 population State” means a State that has no urban-
15 ized areas with a population greater than 250,000,
16 as reported in the decennial census.

17 (10) **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ORGANIZA-**
18 **TION.**—The term “mental health services organiza-
19 tion” means an organization or association that rep-
20 resents providers of mental health crisis services or
21 crisis respite services.

22 (11) **PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT.**—The
23 term “public safety answering point” has the mean-
24 ing given that term in section 9.3 of title 47, Code
25 of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

1 (12) TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PRO-
2 VIDER.—The term “telecommunications service pro-
3 vider” has the meaning given that term in section
4 52.5(e) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or
5 any successor regulation.

6 (13) SMALL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES.—The
7 term “small and rural communities” means a
8 noncore area, a micropolitan area, or a small metro-
9 politan statistical area with a population of not more
10 than 250,000, as reported in the decennial census.

11 (14) STATE.—The term “State” means any of
12 the several States of the United States, the District
13 of Columbia, and any territory or possession of the
14 United States.

15 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
17 the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Commu-
18 nications Commission, in coordination with the Secretary
19 of Health and Human Services, shall establish an advisory
20 committee to provide recommendations to address chal-
21 lenges to transmitting geolocation information with calls
22 to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

23 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

24 (1) COMPOSITION.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The committee shall be
2 composed of 14 members, to be appointed in
3 accordance with subparagraphs (B) and (C).

4 (B) APPOINTMENTS BY FEDERAL COMMU-
5 NICATIONS COMMISSION.—Of the 14 members
6 of the committee appointed under this para-
7 graph, the Federal Communications Commis-
8 sion shall appoint—

9 (i) 1 member from a telecommuni-
10 cations service provider or an organization
11 that represents telecommunications service
12 providers;

13 (ii) 1 member from a handset manu-
14 facturer or an organization that represents
15 handset manufacturers;

16 (iii) 1 member from a public safety
17 answering point or an organization that
18 represents public safety answering points;

19 (iv) 1 member from a 911 system
20 service provider or an organization that
21 represents 911 system service providers;

22 (v) 2 members from a State govern-
23 ment, with at least 1 member representing
24 a low population State; and

1 (vi) 2 members from a local govern-
2 ment, with at least 1 member representing
3 small and rural communities.

4 (C) APPOINTMENTS BY THE SECRETARY
5 OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—Of the 14
6 members of the committee appointed under this
7 paragraph, the Secretary of Health and Human
8 Services shall appoint—

9 (i) 1 member from the 988 Suicide
10 and Crisis Lifeline;

11 (ii) 1 member from a local crisis cen-
12 ter or an organization that represents local
13 crisis centers;

14 (iii) 1 member from the Veterans Cri-
15 sis Line;

16 (iv) 1 member from the Substance
17 Abuse and Mental Health Services Admin-
18 istration;

19 (v) 1 member from a mental health
20 services organization; and

21 (vi) 1 member from a community
22 based mental health organization.

23 (2) DATE.—The appointments of the members
24 of the committee shall be made not later than 30
25 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the committee
3 shall be appointed for the life of the committee.

4 (2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the committee—

5 (A) shall not affect the powers of the com-
6 mittee; and

7 (B) shall be filled in the same manner as
8 the original appointment.

9 (d) MEETINGS.—

10 (1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days
11 after the date on which all members of the com-
12 mittee have been appointed, the committee shall hold
13 the first meeting of the committee.

14 (2) FREQUENCY.—The committee shall meet at
15 the call of the Chairperson.

16 (3) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
17 the committee shall constitute a quorum, but a less-
18 er number of members may hold hearings.

19 (e) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The
20 committee shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
21 from among the members of the committee.

22 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF COMMITTEE.**

23 (a) STUDY.—The committee shall conduct a study
24 on—

1 (1) policy considerations regarding consumer
2 privacy and legal authority with respect to man-
3 dating transmission of location information, includ-
4 ing dispatchable location information, with calls to
5 the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline;

6 (2) technical implementation standards for serv-
7 ice providers, 911 system service providers, public
8 safety answering points, and local crisis centers; and

9 (3) potential recovery of costs or additional
10 funding requirements for service providers, the 988
11 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, the Veterans Crisis Line,
12 and local crisis centers.

13 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Based on the results of
14 the study conducted under subsection (a), the committee
15 shall develop recommendations on potential legislation
16 that would address challenges relating to the inclusion of
17 location information, including dispatchable location infor-
18 mation, with calls to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
20 of enactment of this Act, the committee shall submit to
21 appropriate committees of Congress and the Federal Com-
22 munications Commission a report that contains a detailed
23 statement of the findings and conclusions of the com-
24 mittee, together with the recommendations of the com-

1 mittee for such legislation and administrative actions as
2 the committee considers appropriate.

3 **SEC. 5. POWERS OF COMMITTEE.**

4 (a) HEARINGS.—The committee may hold such hear-
5 ings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testi-
6 mony, and receive such evidence as the committee con-
7 siders advisable to carry out this Act.

8 (b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The committee may secure
10 directly from a Federal department or agency such
11 information as the committee considers necessary to
12 carry out this Act.

13 (2) FURNISHING INFORMATION.—On request of
14 the Chairperson of the committee, the head of the
15 department or agency shall furnish the information
16 to the committee.

17 (c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The committee may use the
18 United States mails in the same manner and under the
19 same conditions as other departments and agencies of the
20 Federal Government.

21 (d) GIFTS.—The committee may accept, use, and dis-
22 pose of gifts or donations of services or property.

23 **SEC. 6. COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

24 (a) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the com-
25 mittee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem

1 in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees
2 of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,
3 United States Code, while away from their homes or reg-
4 ular places of business in the performance of services for
5 the committee.

6 (b) STAFF.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the com-
8 mittee may, without regard to the civil service laws
9 (including regulations), appoint and terminate an ex-
10 ecutive director and such other additional personnel
11 as may be necessary to enable the committee to per-
12 form its duties, except that the employment of an
13 executive director shall be subject to confirmation by
14 the committee.

15 (2) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of the
16 committee may fix the compensation of the executive
17 director and other personnel without regard to chap-
18 ter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5,
19 United States Code, relating to classification of posi-
20 tions and General Schedule pay rates, except that
21 the rate of pay for the executive director and other
22 personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level
23 V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of
24 that title.

1 (c) **DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—A Fed-
2 eral Government employee may be detailed to the com-
3 mittee without reimbursement, and such detail shall be
4 without interruption or loss of civil service status or privi-
5 lege.

6 (d) **PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-**
7 **TENT SERVICES.**—The Chairperson of the committee may
8 procure temporary and intermittent services under section
9 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individ-
10 uals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual
11 rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive
12 Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

13 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION OF COMMITTEE.**

14 The committee shall terminate 30 days after the date
15 on which the committee submits the report required under
16 section 4(c) of this Act.

17 **SEC. 8. FUNDING.**

18 This Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise
19 appropriated, and no additional amounts are authorized
20 to be appropriated to carry out this Act.

○