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HOUSE BILL 1581

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representative Macri; by request of Office of Financial Management

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the statewide 988 behavioral health  
2 crisis response and suicide prevention line tax; amending RCW  
3 82.86.020; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the state has  
6 made significant progress in establishing and implementing the 988  
7 suicide and crisis lifeline, creating greater access to crisis  
8 services for individuals and their families in need. The legislature  
9 further finds that an improved crisis response system reduces  
10 reliance on emergency room services and the use of law enforcement  
11 response to behavioral health crises and helps to stabilize  
12 individuals in the community whenever possible. To accomplish  
13 effective crisis response and suicide prevention, Washington state  
14 must continue its integrated approach to address mental health and  
15 substance use disorder and continue its progress toward implementing  
16 the 988 suicide and crisis lifelines and crisis systems in the  
17 country. The legislature finds it is critical to provide funding to  
18 enable greater access to crisis care services and supports.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.86.020 and 2021 c 302 s 202 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

1 (1)(a) A statewide 988 behavioral health crisis response and  
2 suicide prevention line tax is imposed on the use of all radio access  
3 lines:

4 (i) By subscribers whose place of primary use is located within  
5 the state in the amount set forth in (a)(ii) of this subsection (1)  
6 per month for each radio access line. The tax must be uniform for  
7 each radio access line under this subsection (1); and

8 (ii) By consumers whose retail transaction occurs within the  
9 state in the amount set forth in this subsection (1)(a)(ii) per  
10 retail transaction. The amount of tax must be uniform for each retail  
11 transaction under this subsection (1) and is as follows:

12 (A) Beginning October 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022, the tax  
13 rate is 24 cents for each radio access line; ~~((and))~~

14 (B) Beginning January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025, the tax  
15 rate is 40 cents for each radio access line; and

16 (C) Beginning January 1, 2026, the tax rate is 70 cents for each  
17 radio access line.

18 (b) The tax imposed under this subsection (1) must be remitted to  
19 the department by radio communications service companies, including  
20 those companies that resell radio access lines, and sellers of  
21 prepaid wireless telecommunications service, on a tax return provided  
22 by the department. Tax proceeds must be deposited by the treasurer  
23 into the statewide 988 behavioral health crisis response and suicide  
24 prevention line account created in RCW 82.86.050.

25 (c) For the purposes of this subsection (1), the retail  
26 transaction is deemed to occur at the location where the transaction  
27 is sourced under RCW 82.32.520(3)(c).

28 (2) A statewide 988 behavioral health crisis response and suicide  
29 prevention line tax is imposed on all interconnected voice over  
30 internet protocol service lines in the state. The amount of tax must  
31 be uniform for each line and must be levied on no more than the  
32 number of voice over internet protocol service lines on an account  
33 that is capable of simultaneous unrestricted outward calling to the  
34 public switched telephone network. The tax imposed under this  
35 subsection (2) must be remitted to the department by interconnected  
36 voice over internet protocol service companies on a tax return  
37 provided by the department. The amount of tax for each interconnected  
38 voice over internet protocol service line whose place of primary use  
39 is located in the state is as follows:

1 (a) Beginning October 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022, the tax  
2 rate is 24 cents for an interconnected voice over internet protocol  
3 service line; (~~and~~)

4 (b) Beginning January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025, the tax  
5 rate is 40 cents for an interconnected voice over internet protocol  
6 service line; and

7 (c) Beginning January 1, 2026, the tax rate is 70 cents for an  
8 interconnected voice over internet protocol service line.

9 (3) A statewide 988 behavioral health crisis response and suicide  
10 prevention line tax is imposed on all switched access lines in the  
11 state. The amount of tax must be uniform for each line and must be  
12 levied on no more than the number of switched access lines on an  
13 account that is capable of simultaneous unrestricted outward calling  
14 to the public switched telephone network. The tax imposed under this  
15 subsection (3) must be remitted to the department by local exchange  
16 companies on a tax return provided by the department. The amount of  
17 tax for each switched access line whose place of primary use is  
18 located in the state is as follows:

19 (a) Beginning October 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022, the tax  
20 rate is 24 cents for each switched access line; (~~and~~)

21 (b) Beginning January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025, the tax  
22 rate is 40 cents for each switched access line; and

23 (c) Beginning January 1, 2026, the tax rate is 70 cents for each  
24 switched access line.

25 (4) Tax proceeds collected pursuant to this section must be  
26 deposited by the treasurer into the statewide 988 behavioral health  
27 crisis response and suicide prevention line account created in RCW  
28 82.86.050.

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