

By: Landgraf

H.B. No. 5342

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. 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE TRUST FUND.

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

(b) The trust fund consists of:

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

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

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

(4) gifts, grants, and donations received by this state

for the purposes of the trust fund;

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

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

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

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

(2) provide funding for crisis outreach and other services a community mental health center provides in response to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline;

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

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

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

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

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

(e) The executive commissioner shall submit an annual report to the legislature and the Federal Communications Commission

detailing the trust fund deposits and expenditures in the preceding year.

Sec. 547.0502. 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE FEE. (a)

The commission, in collaboration with the Commission on State Emergency Communications, may impose a 988 suicide and crisis lifeline service fee to supplement any federal, state, or local funding for suicide prevention or behavioral health crisis services on each:

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

(2) wireless telecommunications connection;

(3) Voice over Internet Protocol service connection;

and

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

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

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

547.0504.

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 547.0503. ANNUAL REPORT. (a) The commission shall prepare an annual report of the usage of crisis centers and the services provided by the centers.

(b) The commission shall present the annual report to the legislature and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

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