



1 response to 988 contacts, pursuant to chapter 23-17.26, and the National Suicide Hotline  
2 Designation Act of 2020, Pub. L. No. 116-172, 134 Stat. 832 (2020).

3 (4) "Crisis receiving and stabilization centers" are facilities providing short term services  
4 of up to twenty-four (24) hours with capacity for diagnosis, initial management, observation, crisis  
5 stabilization and follow up referral services to all persons.

6 (5) "Lifeline administrator" means the entity that contracts with the Substance Abuse and  
7 Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to oversee the national 988 suicide and crisis  
8 lifeline system and ensure it meets all federal requirements.

9 (6) "Operator" means the nonprofit entity designated to oversee the 988 call center pursuant  
10 to § 40.1-30-3.

11 (7) "Director" means the director of the department of behavioral healthcare,  
12 developmental disabilities and hospitals (BHDDH).

13 (8) "Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ("SAMHSA")" means  
14 the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health  
15 efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation.

16 **40.1-30-2. 988 and crisis outreach and stabilization services system established.**

17 (a) The director is hereby authorized to designate and fully fund the 988 call center and  
18 crisis receiving and stabilization centers to provide for diagnosis, initial management, observation,  
19 crisis stabilization, and follow up referral services to all persons in response to 988 contacts.

20 (b) The director shall have the authority to allocate and expend any and all allocated funds  
21 including state, federal, and private and public grant funds to support the 988 call center and crisis  
22 outreach and stabilization services center system to:

23 (1) Operate, staff, and maintain the 988 call center;

24 (2) Acquire, upgrade, and maintain technology or telecommunications infrastructure for  
25 988 call center use;

26 (3) Provide required training for call center staff in accordance with federal 988 program  
27 standards;

28 (4) Provide acute mental health crisis outreach and stabilization services in direct response  
29 to 988 and mental health crisis calls as authorized by the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act  
30 of 2020, Pub. L. No. 116-172, 134 Stat. 832 (2020); and

31 (5) Conduct public awareness and first responder outreach efforts about the availability  
32 and use of 988 and crisis outreach and stabilization services.

33 (c) Funding for the 988 call center and crisis outreach and stabilization services shall not  
34 be used to:

1           (1) Expand into service areas beyond those allowed by the National Suicide Hotline  
2 Designation Act or implementing SAMHSA guidance; or

3           (2) Fund operations, staff, or administration of any state agency.

4           **40.1-30-3. Governance and independence of 988 call center operations.**

5           (a) The 988 call center shall be operated by a nonprofit entity appointed by the director and  
6 approved by the lifeline administrator designated by SAMHSA in accordance with federal grant  
7 requirements. In the event the nonprofit entity ceases operation, and another nonprofit entity cannot  
8 operate the call center within a reasonable time, BHDDH is authorized to operate the 988 call center  
9 until a qualified nonprofit entity is appointed by the director and approved by SAMHSA.

10          (b) The call center shall operate collaboratively with all Rhode Island executive  
11 departments and shall be subject to the oversight and direction of BHDDH.

12          (c) BHDDH shall establish an advisory board to promote compliance with national  
13 standards and best practices. The advisory board shall consist of professionals with expertise in  
14 children, adolescent, and adult behavioral health including a representative of BHDDH and the  
15 Department of Children, Youth and Families.

16          **40.1-30-4. Oversight and reporting.**

17          (a) BHDDH shall collect information from the operator(s) of the 988 call center and the  
18 crisis outreach and stabilization services center(s), and shall submit an annual report to the governor  
19 and the general assembly by February 1 of each year detailing:

20               (1) Revenue by category including, but not limited to, grants, and appropriations;

21               (2) Expenditures by category including, but not limited to, staffing, training, and  
22 technology; and

23               (3) Service performance metrics including, but not limited to, call volume, wait times, and  
24 abandonments.

25          (b) The Rhode Island auditor general shall conduct an annual audit of the 988 call center  
26 and crisis outreach and stabilization services center(s) operations and funding and provide the  
27 results to the governor, the speaker of the house; the president of the senate; the house of  
28 representatives finance committee chair; and the senate finance committee chair.

29          SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

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LC005059/SUB A  
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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND  
HOSPITALS -- 988 CALL CENTER AND CRISIS OUTREACH AND STABILIZATION  
SERVICES CENTER OPERATIONS ACT

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1           This act would establish the operations necessary for a 988 hotline for suicide prevention  
2           and behavioral health crisis management. This act would also establish the operations necessary  
3           for acute mental health crisis outreach and stabilization services in direct response to the 988  
4           hotline.

5           This act would take effect on July 1, 2027.

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