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Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with House Amendments
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2149

Introduced by

Senators Hogan, Cleary, Dever, Lee

Representatives O'Brien, Swiontek

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

988 crisis hotline program - Establishment.

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

d. Collaborate with the national suicide prevention lifeline and the veterans crisis line for purposes of ensuring consistent public messaging about the 988 crisis hotline and available services.

3. For purposes of this section:

a. "988 crisis hotline" means a state-identified hotline participating in the national suicide prevention lifeline network to respond to statewide or regional behavior health crisis calls.

b. "National suicide prevention lifeline" means a national network of local crisis centers maintained by the federal substance abuse and mental health services administration which provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

c. "Veterans crisis line" means the veterans crisis line maintained by the United States department of veterans affairs.

4. Except for action or inaction that constitutes gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct, each provider of a communications service and their employees, agents, suppliers, and subcontractors are not liable for the payment of damages resulting directly or indirectly from the total or partial failure of any transmission to an emergency communication service or for damages resulting from the performance of installing, maintaining, or providing 988 service.