

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SECOND ENGROSSMENT

REENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2200

Introduced by

Senators Hogan, Axtman, Lee

Representatives Dobervich, Frelich

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 50-06 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the creation of the 988 crisis hotline program and the 988 crisis
3 stabilization fund; to provide for a legislative management report; and to provide an
4 appropriation.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

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

8 **988 crisis stabilization fund - 988 crisis hotline program - Establishment.**

- 9 1. There is created in the state treasury a special fund known as the 988 crisis
10 stabilization fund. The fund consists of all moneys deposited through legislative
11 appropriation.
- 12 2. The department shall establish and implement a 988 crisis hotline program to provide
13 crisis outreach, stabilization, and acute care to individuals calling the 988 crisis hotline.
14 The department may adopt rules in accordance with chapter 28-32 for the purpose of
15 implementing this section.
- 16 3. In developing the program, the department shall:
- 17 a. Fund the 988 crisis hotline to provide intervention services and crisis care
18 coordination to individuals calling the 988 crisis hotline.
- 19 b. Contract with crisis vendors to provide or administer crisis outreach, stabilization,
20 acute care, and marketing for the 988 crisis hotline.
- 21 c. Contract with a nonprofit organization to operate the 988 crisis hotline and
22 provide intervention services and crisis care coordination to individuals calling the

- 1 988 crisis hotline from any jurisdiction within the state, twenty-four hours a day,
2 seven days a week. The nonprofit organization must:
- 3 (1) Have an active agreement with the administrator of the national suicide
4 prevention lifeline for participation within the network;
- 5 (2) Meet the national suicide prevention lifeline requirements for serving
6 high-risk and specialized populations; and
- 7 (3) Provide followup services to individuals accessing the 988 crisis hotline.
- 8 d. Collaborate with the national suicide prevention lifeline and the veterans crisis
9 line for purposes of ensuring consistent public messaging about the 988 crisis
10 hotline and available services.
- 11 4. For purposes of this section:
- 12 a. "988 crisis hotline" means a state-identified hotline participating in the national
13 suicide prevention and mental health crisis lifeline network to respond to
14 statewide or regional behavior health and substance use crisis calls.
- 15 b. "National suicide prevention lifeline" means a national network of local crisis
16 centers maintained by the federal substance abuse and mental health services
17 administration which provides free and confidential emotional support to people
18 in suicidal crisis, behavioral health crisis or emotional distress, twenty-four hours
19 a day, seven days a week.
- 20 c. "Service user" means a person that is provided a 988 communication connection
21 in the state.
- 22 d. "Veterans crisis line" means the veterans crisis line maintained by the Secretary
23 of Veterans Affairs under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code.
- 24 5. Except for action or inaction that constitutes gross negligence or willful and wanton
25 misconduct, each provider of a communications service and its employees, agents,
26 suppliers, and subcontractors are not liable for the payment of damages resulting
27 directly or indirectly from the total or partial failure of any transmission to an
28 emergency communication service or for damages resulting from the performance of
29 installing, maintaining, or providing 988 service.
- 30 6. Except for action or inaction that constitutes gross negligence or willful and wanton
31 misconduct, 988 crisis hotline agencies, employees, agents, suppliers, and

1 subcontractors are not liable for the payment of damages resulting directly or indirectly
2 for acts completed within the scope of an individual's employment responsibilities
3 including crisis stabilization services, outreach, de-escalation, stabilization, resource
4 connection, or followup support.

5 **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT - CRISIS STABILIZATION FUND.**

6 During the 2025-26 interim the department of health and human services shall provide an
7 annual report to the legislative management on the balance of the 988 crisis stabilization fund.
8 The report must include information regarding the growth and balance of the fund and any
9 recommendations, findings, or conclusions the department deems necessary.

10 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the community
11 health trust fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$500,000, or so
12 much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the
13 purpose of establishing and implementing a 988 crisis hotline program, for the biennium
14 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.