

April 15, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SECOND ENGROSSMENT

REENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2200

Introduced by

Senators Hogan, Axtman, Lee

Representatives Dobervich, Frelich

In place of the amendments (25.0770.04003) adopted by the House, Reengrossed Senate Bill No. 2200 is amended by amendment (25.0770.04004) as follows:

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 to the department of health and human services for the 988 crisis hotline program.

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.~~

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

1 ~~emergency communication service or for damages resulting from the performance of~~
2 ~~installing, maintaining, or providing 988 service.~~

3 ~~6. Except for action or inaction that constitutes gross negligence or willful and~~
4 ~~wanton misconduct, 988 crisis hotline agencies, employees, agents, suppliers, and~~
5 ~~subcontractors are not liable for the payment of damages resulting directly or indirectly~~
6 ~~for acts completed within the scope of an individual's employment responsibilities~~
7 ~~including crisis stabilization services, outreach, de-escalation, stabilization, resource~~
8 ~~connection, or followup support.~~

9 ~~SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT – CRISIS STABILIZATION FUND.~~

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

14 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**

15 **988 CRISIS HOTLINE PROGRAM.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the community
16 health trust fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$500,000, or so
17 much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the
18 purpose of ~~establishing and implementing a~~the 988 crisis hotline program, for the biennium
19 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.