HOUSE BILL No. 2611

By Committee on Health and Human Services

AN ACT directing the secretary of health and environment to review the behavioral health and addiction crisis response in Kansas and report any findings and recommendations to a joint meeting of the standing committee on health and human services of the house and the senate standing committee on public health and welfare.

WHEREAS, There are people in Kansas communities who are experiencing mental health or substance abuse crises who need professional crisis care or urgent psychiatric care from skilled mental health clinicians and medical professionals who excel at providing compassionate crisis intervention and stabilization; and

WHEREAS, A coordinated crisis response system provides for early intervention and effective treatment of persons in mental health or substance abuse crisis; and

WHEREAS, A coordinated crisis response system should be available in all communities statewide.

Now, therefore:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) The secretary of health and environment shall review the current behavioral health and addiction crisis response in Kansas and shall formulate a plan analyzing and making recommendations for the improvement of a coordinated crisis response in the state. The plan shall include recommendations concerning the establishment of a centrally located 24-hour state-wide telephone hotline that implements a warm hand-off based on the 911 models, shall use a regional model to make recommendations as to the appropriate geographic coordination of behavioral health and addiction crisis response in Kansas and shall include an analysis of the best use of existing resources, including, but not limited to, emergency medical services, crisis intervention centers, behavioral health professionals, mental health professionals, mental health centers, crisis intervention-trained law enforcement officers, governmental behavioral crisis intervention services, medical care facilities and other entities and individuals impacting behavioral health and addiction crisis response. In developing the plan, the secretary shall consult with representatives of behavioral health and addiction crisis response entities, individuals engaged in behavioral health and addiction crisis response and
such other entities or individuals as the secretary deems appropriate. The secretary shall complete the review, formulate the plan, and prepare the report required in subsection (b) within existing appropriations and shall design any plan developed by the secretary to be implemented within existing appropriations.

(b) On or before January 30, 2019, the secretary of health and environment shall present to a joint meeting of the standing committee on health and human services of the house and the senate standing committee on public health and welfare, a report of the secretary's findings and recommendations concerning coordinated behavioral health and addiction crisis response in Kansas. The report, at a minimum, shall include the plan prepared pursuant to subsection (a).

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.