

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 19**

As Agreed to April 28, 2022

Brief*

House Sub. for SB 19 would create the Living, Investing in Values, and Ending Suicide (LIVES) Act (Act). The Act would implement the established 988 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline (Hotline) in Kansas. The bill would outline the responsibilities of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), Hotline centers, and service providers. The bill would establish the 988 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline Fund (Hotline Fund) and direct State General Fund moneys to be transferred to the Hotline Fund. Additionally, the bill would provide certain protections from liability for services providers, create the 988 Coordinating Council (Council), and require an annual report from the Council to select Legislative standing committees.

Definitions (Section 2)

The bill would define terms used in the Act, including:

- “Crisis stabilization services” would mean short-term services for up to 72 hours, with capacity for diagnosis, initial management, observation, crisis stabilization, and follow-up referral services;
- “Hotline” would mean the 988 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline or its successor maintained by the federal Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use;
- “Hotline center” would mean a 988 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline center, designated by KDADS, participating in the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network to respond to statewide or regional 988 calls;
- “Mobile crisis team” would mean a team of behavioral health professionals and peers that provide professional, community-based, crisis intervention services, including, but not limited to, de-escalation and stabilization for individuals who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis. Such services would be separate and distinct from 911 emergency responses of emergency medical services or law enforcement; and

*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kIRD>

- “NSPL” would mean the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the national network of local, certified crisis centers that provide free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Responsibilities of KDADS, Hotline Centers, and Service Providers (Section 3)

KDADS

In accordance with provisions of 47 CFR §52.200, the bill would require KDADS, prior to July 16, 2022, to:

- Designate a Hotline center or network of centers to provide crisis intervention services and care coordination to individuals accessing the Hotline 24 hours per day, 7 days per week;
- Create a system for information sharing and communication between crisis and emergency response systems and Hotline centers for the purpose of real-time crisis care coordination including, but not limited to, deployment of crisis and outgoing services specific to a crisis response of 911 emergency responders when necessary;
- Convene mobile crisis teams;
- Develop guidelines for deploying services, including mobile crisis teams, coordinating access to crisis stabilization services or other local resources as appropriate, and providing referrals and follow-ups;
- Coordinate consistent public messaging regarding the Hotline with NSPL, KDADS, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA);
- Require training as established by NSPL for Hotline center staff for servicing, or transferring to appropriate specialized centers, high-risk and specialized populations identified by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA);
- Work with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and KanCare managed care organizations (MCOs) to develop plans for payment for KanCare members and uninsured services;
- Create an advisory board to provide guidance to the Secretary for Aging and Disability Services (Secretary), gather feedback, and make recommendations for Hotline centers, local counties, and municipalities regarding the planning and implementation of the Hotline;
- Hire a statewide suicide prevention coordinator; and
- Adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the Act.

The bill would require KDADS, after July 16, 2022, to:

- Consult with the advisory board created by the bill to provide guidance to the Secretary, gather feedback, and make recommendations for Hotline centers, local counties, and municipalities regarding usage and services provided in response to calls to the Hotline centers;
- Fund payment for crisis stabilization services provided to an individual in direct response to a Hotline center call if such individual is uninsured or such services are not covered by such individual's insurance; and
- Apply for, receive, administer, and utilize any grants or assistance made available by the federal government, or other public or private sources for the purpose of this act.

Hotline Centers

The bill would require the Hotline centers, prior to July 16, 2022, to:

- Establish an agreement with NSPL for participation within the network of crisis centers;
- Meet any training requirements for Hotline center staff established by NSPL or KDADS;
- Enter into memorandums of understanding with local service providers to be deployed according to KDADS guidelines;
- Coordinate access to crisis stabilization services or other local resources as appropriate according to KDADS guidelines;
- Provide referrals and follow-ups according to KDADS guidelines;
- Work with the VA to route calls from self-designated veterans for the provision of Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) services; and
- Meet any Hotline center provisions required to be met after July 16, 2022, if the Hotline center has the capacity to meet such provisions prior to such date.

The bill would require Hotline centers, after July 16, 2022, to:

- Receive all calls initiated by a service user dialing 988 from service providers;
- Deploy crisis services, including mobile crisis teams, according to KDADS guidelines;
- Coordinate access to crisis stabilization services or other local resources as appropriate according to KDADS guidelines;
- Provide referrals and follow-ups according to KDADS guidelines;
- Continue to meet training requirements established by NSPL and KDADS; and
- Continue to work with the VA to route calls from self-designated veterans for the provision of VCL services.

Service Providers

The bill would require service providers, prior to July 16, 2022, to:

- Establish 988 as the unique number for suicide prevention and mental health crisis;
- Transmit all calls initiated by a service user dialing 988 to the current toll-free access number for NSPL;
- Complete all changes necessary to implement the designation of the 988 dialing code; and
- Prepare for the potential collection and remittance of fees to the Hotline Fund.

The bill would require service providers, after July 16, 2022, to direct all calls initiated by a user dialing 988 to Hotline centers.

Liability Protection (Section 4)

The bill would provide that each service provider and seller, and employees, agents, suppliers, and subcontractors of each service provider and seller, would not be 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, except as provided by the Kansas Tort Claims Act and for action or inaction that constitutes gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct.

988 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline Fund (Section 5)

The bill would establish in the State Treasury the Hotline Fund to be administered by the Secretary for Aging and Disability Services (Secretary). The bill would require all moneys received for the purpose of the Hotline Fund to be deposited to the credit of the Hotline Fund.

The bill would require, on or before the 10th of each month, the Director of Accounts and Reports to transfer from the State General Fund (SGF) to the Hotline Fund interest earnings based on the average daily balance of moneys in the Hotline Fund for the preceding month and the net earnings rate of the Pooled Money Investment Portfolio for the preceding month.

The bill would require moneys credited to the Hotline Fund to be used only to pay expenses that are reasonably attributed to:

- Ensuring the efficient and effective routing of calls made to the Hotline to an appropriate crisis center; and
- Personnel; the provision of acute mental health, crisis outreach, and stabilization services by directly responding to the Hotline; mobile crisis response services, including, but not limited to, services for those persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities and persons with behavioral health needs; public promotion; data collection; and reporting.

The bill would prohibit moneys credited to the Hotline Fund from being used to pay expenses that are attributed to persons or entities who are domiciled outside the state.

The bill would mandate that moneys in the Hotline Fund would be used for the purposes set forth in the bill and for no other governmental purposes.

On July 1, 2022, and on each July 1 thereafter, the Director of Accounts and Reports would be required to transfer \$10.0 million from the SGF to the Hotline Fund.

Beginning in FY 2023 and for each fiscal year beyond, the SGF demand transfer required would be reduced by the certified unencumbered ending balance of the Hotline Fund for the previous fiscal year. The Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Budget, would be required to certify at the end of each fiscal year the amount of unencumbered ending balance in the Hotline fund and communicate this information to the Director of Accounts and Reports, and the Director of Legislative Research.

Annual Report to the Legislature (Section 6)

On or before the first day of each regular session of the Legislature, the Secretary would be required to submit a report to the House Committees on Appropriations; Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications; and Health and Human Services and the Senate Committees on Ways and Means; Utilities; and Public Health and Welfare, or any successor committees, detailing outcomes related to implementation of the Hotline in Kansas. The report would be required to include the following key performance indicators:

- Outcomes related to Hotline implementation in Kansas;
- Hotline usage in Kansas;
- Services provided in response to Hotline usage;
- Availability of any Federal or other public or private funding sources for the purpose of administering this act, along with information on any applications that were submitted to receive such financial assistance and the amounts received, if any;
- Estimate of the necessary cost to continue to support and fund the requirements of this act in the ensuing fiscal year; and
- Recommendations regarding how costs may be funded, including through the collection of fees or charges on telecommunications services, with estimates of such charges.

Hotline Number of Student Identification Cards (Section 7)

The bill would encourage each school district that issues student identification cards to students in grades 6 through 12 to include on such identification cards the 988 Hotline number, or if the Hotline is not in operation, then a local, state, or national suicide prevention hotline telephone number.

988 Coordinating Council (Section 8)

Purpose

The bill would create the 988 Coordinating Council (Council), which would advise the Secretary on the delivery of 988 services, develop strategies for future enhancements to the 988 system, and distribute funds to organizations providing services as National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Centers (NSPL Centers).

Membership

To the extent possible, the bill would require the Council to include individuals with technical expertise regarding mental health crisis delivery services, call center technology and services, and any other relevant subject matter.

The Council would consist of the following 11 voting members representing various entities, as indicated:

- Nine voting members appointed by the Governor, with one member from each of the following:
 - Information technology personnel from government units;
 - NSPL Centers located in counties with a population of fewer than 75,000;
 - NSPL Centers located in counties with a population greater than 75,000;
 - Kansas Sheriffs Association;
 - Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police;
 - Kansas Association of Community Mental Health Centers;
 - InterHab;
 - KDADS; and
 - A recommendation by the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- Two voting legislative members appointed by the Legislative Coordinating Council, as follows:
 - One member of the House Committee on Appropriations; and
 - One member of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

The Council would also include six nonvoting members appointed by the Governor, with one member representing each of the following:

- Rural telecommunications companies recommended by the Kansas rural independent telephone companies;
- Incumbent local exchange carriers with over 50,000 access lines;
- Large wireless providers;

- A recommendation from League of Kansas Municipalities;
- A recommendation from Kansas Association of Counties; and
- A Kansas resident recommended by the Mid-America Regional Council.

Terms

Except as otherwise indicated in the bill, each voting member would be appointed for a three-year term and until a successor is appointed and qualified. Of the 11 voting members appointed by the Governor, five would be appointed to an initial term of two years and five to an initial term of four years, as specified by the Governor.

A voting member would be limited to serving no longer than two successive three year terms, with a voting member appointed as a replacement allowed to finish the term of the predecessor and serve two additional successive terms.

Chairperson

The chairperson of the Council would be selected by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Governor. The chairperson would serve as the liaison between the Council and the SAMHSA. The chairperson would preside over all meetings of the Council and assist the Council in effectuating the Act.

Payment of Expenses

The bill would require all expenses related to the Council be paid from the Hotline Fund.

Member Compensation

The bill would allow members of the Council and other persons appointed to subcommittees by the Council to receive reimbursement for meals and travel expenses but would serve without compensation. Legislative members would be paid compensation, subsistence allowance, mileage and other expenses, as provided in KSA 75-3212, when attending meetings of the Council.

Service Provider Contact Information

The bill would require every service provider to submit its contact information to the Council, with wireless telecommunications service providers new to providing service in the state required to submit contact information within three months of first offering wireless telecommunications services in the state.

Annual Council Report

The bill would require the Council to submit an annual report to the House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications and the Senate Committee on Utilities, or any successor committees, on or before the first day of each regular session of the Legislature. The report would include a detailed description of all expenditures made from 988 fees received by the NSPL Centers.

Sunset

The bill would provide that the provisions of the bill relating to the Council would expire July 1, 2026.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to the House Committee version of the substitute bill, and further adopted the following amendments to:

- Replace references to “crisis-receiving and stabilization services” with “crisis stabilization services”;
- Specify the definition of “crisis stabilization services” means short-term services for up to 72 hours, with capacity for diagnosis, initial management, observation, crisis stabilization, and follow-up referral services;
- Require KDADS, after July 16, 2022, to fund payment for crisis stabilization services provided to an individual in direct response to a hotline center call if such individual is uninsured or such services are not covered by such individual’s insurance;
- Prohibit moneys credited to the Hotline Fund from being used to pay expenses that are attributed to persons or entities who are domiciled outside the state;
- Reduce from 15 to 11 the number of voting members of the Council;
- Reduce from 13 to 9 the number of voting members of the Council appointed by the Governor;
- Reduce from two to one the number of voting members appointed by the Governor representing information technology personnel from governmental units, NSPL centers located in counties with a population of fewer than 75,000, and NSPL centers located in counties with a population of greater than 75,000;
- Remove the voting member appointed by the Governor from the Kansas Department for Children and Families;
- Remove the nonvoting member appointed by the Governor representing voice over internet protocol (VoIP) providers;

- Remove the nonvoting members appointed by the Governor recommended by the Kansas Geographic Information Systems Policy Board and the Kansas Office of Information Technology Services;
- Provide that the provisions of the section relating to the Council would expire on July 1, 2026; and
- Make technical changes.

Background

The House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications recommended a substitute bill for SB 19 incorporating certain provisions pertaining to establishing the Living, Investing in Values, and Ending Suicide (LIVES) Act (Act) contained in House Sub. for HB 2281 be introduced and passed as recommended.

SB 19, as recommended by the Senate Committee on Transportation would have designated a portion of US-77 in Marshall County, as the CPL Allen E Oatney and SP4 Gene A Myers Memorial Highway, and removed the Prairie Parkway designation. These provisions were not retained in the substitute bill.

[*Note:* The contents of SB 19 are contained within 2021 HB 2247, which was enacted into law on July 1, 2021.]

HB 2281 (LIVES Act)

House Committee on Health and Human Services

HB 2281 was introduced during the 2021 Legislative Session by the House Committee on Health and Human Services at the request of the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc.

[*Note:* HB 2281 was a recommendation of the 2020 Special Committee on Kansas Mental Health Modernization and Reform. Funding of the Hotline was also included in the recommendations of the 2021 Special Committee on Kansas Mental Health Modernization and Reform.]

In the House Committee hearing on February 22, 2021, representatives of the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, CTIA, the Greater Kansas Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, KDADS, KDHE, Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ, the Kansas Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a school counselor, and a private citizen provided **proponent** testimony.

The KDADS representative stated KDADS applied for and received a grant to assist the State in planning for the implementation of the Hotline. The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 enabled the Hotline, established the authority of states to assess 988 fees on telephone services to fund hotline infrastructure, but did not provide federal funding to states to support those programs. The representative stated SAMHSA expects a significant increase in-

call volume to the NSPL. According to the representative, KDADS highlighted the need for suicide prevention infrastructure development in its 2020-2025 State Suicide Prevention Plan. The representative noted a more robust crisis service delivery system, beginning with the Hotline, would help reduce suicide attempts and deaths.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of Arcare, Inc.; a representative of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kansas Peace Officers Association, and the Kansas Sheriffs Association; a former middle school principal; a former member of the Kansas House of Representatives; a child and adolescent psychiatrist; and three private citizens.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by the Kansas Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

No **opponent** testimony was provided.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the House Committee amended the bill to:

- Specify moneys credited to the Hotline Fund would also be required to be used to provide mobile crisis response services for persons with intellectual or developmental disability and behavioral health needs [*Note: The Conference Committee retained this amendment.*];
- Mandate moneys in the Hotline Fund be used for the purposes set forth in this section and for no other governmental purposes [*Note: The Conference Committee retained this amendment.*];
- Impose a prepaid wireless 988 fee of \$0.50 per retail transaction for prepaid wireless service in Kansas, clarify how the fee would be collected, and establish procedures related to the fee [*Note: The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.*]; and
- Establish the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) Fund and require all moneys collected from payment of the prepaid wireless 988 fee to be used for the CCBHC Fund. [*Note: The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.*]

The bill was withdrawn from the House Calendar and referred to the House Committee on Appropriations on March 5, 2021. The bill was rereferred to the House Committee on Health and Human Services on January 12, 2022, and a second hearing was held.

In the House Committee hearing on February 15, 2022, **proponent** testimony was provided on the bill, as amended by the House Committee in 2021, by representatives of the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc., COMCARE, InterHab, Kansas Mental Health Coalition, Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ (KSPHQ), NAMI Kansas, T-Mobile, and the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce. The proponents generally stated the need for the Hotline to address the mental health needs in the state and reduce the number of individuals impacted by suicide. Some proponent testimony referenced support for certain forthcoming amendments reflecting a compromise reached on the per-line fee.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Children's Alliance of Kansas, First Call, Health Forward Foundation; Johnson County Developmental Supports, Johnson County Mental Health Center, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, KDADS, Kansas Sheriffs Association, Office of the Attorney General of Kansas, Sunflower Foundation, and 12 private citizens.

No other testimony was provided.

On February 16, 2022, the House Committee recommended a substitute bill, incorporating the following amendments to the 2021 Committee bill that:

- Remove language pertaining to the CCBHC Fund [*Note: The Conference Committee retained this amendment.*];
- Revise the 988 fee per subscriber account of service providers and the prepaid wireless 988 fee and clarify the process for collection, identification, remittance, and reporting of such fees [*Note: The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.*];
- Prohibit the imposition of 988 fees other than those created by the bill [*Note: The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.*];
- Direct the transfer of \$3.0 million from the SGF to the Hotline Fund on July 1, 2022, and on each July 1 thereafter [*Note: The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.*];
- Amend how moneys credited to the Hotline Fund may be used [*Note: The Conference Committee retained this amendment.*];
- Provide liability protection for service providers, except for violation of the Kansas Tort Claims Act and action or inaction constituting gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct [*Note: The Conference Committee retained this amendment.*];
- Create the 988 Coordinating Council [*Note: The Conference Committee retained this amendment.*];
- Require an annual report be submitted by the Secretary for Aging and Disability Services to select legislative standing committees [*Note: The Conference Committee retained this amendment.*]; and
- Encourage inclusion of the 988 number on identification cards provided to students in grades 6 through 12 in school districts that issue such cards. [*Note: The Conference Committee retained this amendment.*]

The House Committee also recommended the substitute bill be referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications.

House Sub. for HB 2281 (LIVES Act)

House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications

In the House Committee hearing on March 10, 2022, **proponent** testimony was provided on the substitute bill by representatives of The Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, InterHab, Kansas Mental Health Coalition, KSPHQ, and T-Mobile. The proponents generally stated the need for the Hotline to address the mental health needs in the state and reduce the number of individuals impacted by suicide.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Chapter of National Emergency Number Association and the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by representatives of KDADS, the Kansas 911 Coordinating Council, and the Kansas Association of Public Safety Communications Officials.

No other testimony was provided.

On March 15, 2022, the House Committee recommended provisions of House Sub. for HB 2281 be introduced as House Sub. for SB 19 and be passed as recommended, with amendments to:

- Clarify KDADS must apply for and utilize any grants or financial assistance made available by the federal government, or other public or private sources for the purpose of this act, and make clear such funds shall be credited to the Hotline Fund;
- Remove provisions relating to remittance and collection of \$0.20 and \$0.04 Hotline fees for subscribers' telephone service with in the state;
- Expand the list of services Hotline funds must be expended on to include mobile crisis response services for those persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities and persons with behavioral health needs;
- Increase the amount of SGF transferred to the Hotline Fund each fiscal year from \$3.0 million to \$10.0 million;
- Reduce the \$10.0 SGF transfer by the certified ending balance of the Hotline Fund beginning in FY 2023 and every fiscal year thereafter;
- Specify information that must be contained in the KDADS report to certain legislative standing committees;
- Clarify that the 988 Coordinating Council, which would be established by the bill, shall advise the Secretary on the 988 System;
- Remove provisions allowing the 988 council to adopt rules and regulations;
- Remove provisions relating to the requirement that each NSPL center file an annual report with the 988 council; and
- Make technical and conforming changes.

[Note: All of the above amendments were retained by the Conference Committee.]

Fiscal Information

According to the revised fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2281, as introduced, KDADS indicates enactment of the bill would increase expenditures for salaries, fringe benefits, and operating costs by \$100,000 for 1.0 Program Manager FTE position. This position would be a 988 Program Manager to provide administrative and programmatic support to 988 Centers in Kansas. Based on the planning and startup needed prior to the federally required start date in July 2022, KDADS anticipates increased expenditures of approximately \$1.5 million SGF in the second half of FY 2022 to increase the operational capacity of the current NSPL Centers to meet the anticipated call volume of 988 with a minimum 90.0 percent in-state answer rate. This operational capacity cost would increase to \$3.1 million SGF in FY 2023.

KDHE states it would be difficult to determine how much it would cost to add the requirement that MCOs provide care coordination services for the uninsured, as KanCare members would not qualify as uninsured. The KanCare MCOs are already contractually obligated to provide a number of care coordination services for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program beneficiaries, and providing services to the uninsured would be an expansion of current Medicaid services to the uninsured. KDHE indicates the bill would have no fiscal effect on operations of the agency.

The Department of Revenue provided the fiscal effect on the agency based on a 988 fee of \$0.50; however, as the bill was recommended with a 988 fee of \$0.20, the revised fiscal note would not be accurate. An updated fiscal note was not immediately available. The Department estimates the total administrative effect on expenditures would be \$429,110 from the SGF in FY 2022. These expenditures would include \$3,290 for administrative costs, \$89,420 for systems testing, and \$336,400 for information technology development and management. The original fiscal note did not include the Department of Revenue estimates for revenue or expenditures.

[Note: The bill would direct the transfer of \$3.0 million SGF to the Hotline Fund on July 1, 2022, and each July 1 thereafter.]

Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2022 Governor's Budget Report*.

Living, Investing in Values, and Ending Suicide Act; 988 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline; 988 fees; funding; 988 Coordinating Council; State General Fund

ccrb_sb19_01_2111.odt