

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0987.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

SENATE BILL 25-236

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Amabile and Bridges, Kirkmeyer

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sirota and Taggart, Bird

Senate Committees

Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE COLORADO CRISIS HOTLINE**
102 **AND THE 988 CRISIS HOTLINE ENTERPRISE, AND, IN CONNECTION**
103 **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. Under current law, the 988 crisis hotline and the telephone crisis service that is part of the behavioral health crisis response system operate as 2 separate services. The bill consolidates the telephone crisis service with the 988 crisis hotline. This ensures that callers who call the telephone crisis service will be routed to

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

the 988 crisis hotline.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 22-1-136 as
3 follows:

4 **22-1-136. Student identification cards - information required.**

5 Each student identification card issued to a public school student must
6 contain ~~the phone number, website address, and text talk number for~~
7 ~~Colorado crisis services, as defined in section 27-60-104~~ INFORMATION
8 ON THE 988 CRISIS HOTLINE, OPERATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 27-64-103,
9 and the safe2tell program created in section 24-31-606. The public school
10 may also include information regarding other available crisis services on
11 the identification card. If a public school does not issue student
12 identification cards, the public school shall display the materials
13 described in section 27-60-104 (10) at the school and send information
14 related to Colorado crisis services to parents or guardians at the beginning
15 of each school year.

16 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-5-109, **amend** (2)
17 as follows:

18 **23-5-109. Identification - suicide and crisis prevention - rules.**

19 (2) Each student identification card issued after August 1, 2023, to a
20 public or private postsecondary school student must include ~~the phone~~
21 ~~number and text talk number for the statewide behavioral health crisis~~
22 ~~response system, commonly referred to as "Colorado crisis services", as~~
23 ~~described in section 27-60-104, and~~ INFORMATION ON the national
24 three-digit suicide and crisis lifeline number 988. The public or private
25 postsecondary school may include information about other available crisis

1 services and other services on the identification card, including local
2 campus crisis and suicide prevention numbers. The public or private
3 postsecondary school is not required to reprint or reissue identification
4 cards in use before August 1, 2023. If, at any time, a private or public
5 postsecondary school has current students still using identification cards
6 without the information required by this section, the school shall
7 distribute ~~the phone number and text talk number for Colorado crisis~~
8 ~~services, as described in section 27-60-104, and~~ INFORMATION ON the
9 national three-digit suicide and crisis lifeline number 988 to all students
10 at the beginning of each school semester or trimester until all students
11 have identification cards with the required information. If a private or
12 public postsecondary school does not issue or use student identification
13 cards, the school shall distribute the ~~phone number and text talk number~~
14 ~~for Colorado crisis services, as described in section 27-60-104, and~~
15 INFORMATION ON the national three-digit suicide and crisis lifeline
16 number 988 to all students at the beginning of each school semester or
17 trimester.

18 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-60-103, **amend**
19 (1)(b)(V); and **repeal** (1)(b)(I) as follows:

20 **27-60-103. Behavioral health crisis response system - services**
21 **- request for proposals - criteria - reporting - rules - definitions -**
22 **repeal.** (1) (b) The components of the crisis response system must reflect
23 a continuum of care from crisis response through stabilization and safe
24 return to the community, with adequate support for transitions to each
25 stage. Specific components include:

26 (I) ~~A twenty-four-hour telephone crisis service that is staffed by~~
27 ~~skilled professionals who are capable of assessing child, adolescent, and~~

1 ~~adult crisis situations and making the appropriate referrals;~~

2 (V) FUNDING FOR a public information campaign AND TO ENSURE
3 THAT INDIVIDUALS CALLING OR TEXTING THE LEGACY STATEWIDE
4 TELEPHONE CRISIS LINES ARE ROUTED TO THE 988 CRISIS LINE.

5 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-60-104.5, **amend**
6 (3)(c) and (8) as follows:

7 **27-60-104.5. Behavioral health capacity tracking system -**
8 **rules - legislative declaration - definitions.** (3) Pursuant to subsection
9 (8) of this section, the BHA shall implement a behavioral health capacity
10 tracking system, which must include the following:

11 (c) Coordination with the ~~telephone crisis service that is part of~~
12 ~~the behavioral health crisis response system pursuant to section 27-60-103~~
13 988 CRISIS HOTLINE CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 27-64-103;

14 (8) Subject to available appropriations, the BHA shall implement
15 a centralized, web-based tracking system as described in this section and
16 shall ensure that appropriate tracking system information is available to
17 the public. ~~The contractor of the twenty-four-hour telephone crisis~~
18 ~~services provided pursuant to section 27-60-103 shall use the tracking~~
19 ~~system as an available service resource locator.~~

20 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-64-103, **amend**
21 (4)(d)(I) and (7) as follows:

22 **27-64-103. 988 crisis hotline enterprise - creation - powers and**
23 **duties.** (4) The enterprise's primary powers and duties are to:

24 (d) (I) Engage the services of third parties serving as crisis
25 vendors to provide crisis outreach; stabilization, INCLUDING, BUT NOT
26 LIMITED TO, RECOVERY SUPPORT AND MOBILE RESPONSE UNITS; acute care;
27 and marketing for the 988 crisis hotline;

1 (7) The enterprise shall consider ~~recommendations from the state's~~
2 ~~988 planning committee to determine how the 988 crisis hotline will~~
3 ~~interact with the twenty-four-hour telephone crisis services established in~~
4 ~~section 27-60-103 (1)(b)(I)~~ FUNDING TO ENSURE THAT INDIVIDUALS
5 CALLING OR TEXTING THE LEGACY STATEWIDE TELEPHONE CRISIS LINES
6 ARE ROUTED TO THE 988 CRISIS HOTLINE.

7 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-65-106, **amend**
8 (8)(a)(VI) and (8)(d)(I) as follows:

9 **27-65-106. Emergency mental health hold - screening -**
10 **court-ordered evaluation - discharge instructions - respondent's**
11 **rights.** (8) (a) The facility shall provide each person detained for an
12 emergency mental health hold discharge instructions. The discharge
13 instructions must be completed for every person, regardless of the
14 person's discharge status, before the person is released. If the detained
15 person refuses to accept the discharge instructions, the refusal must be
16 documented in the person's medical record. At a minimum, the discharge
17 instructions must include:

18 (VI) ~~The phone number to call or text the Colorado crisis services~~
19 ~~hotline~~ INFORMATION ON THE 988 CRISIS HOTLINE OPERATED PURSUANT
20 TO SECTION 27-64-103 and information on the availability of peer support
21 services;

22 (d) (I) The facility shall, at a minimum, attempt to follow up with
23 the person, the person's parent or legal guardian, or the person's lay
24 person at least forty-eight hours after discharge. The facility is
25 encouraged to utilize peer support professionals, as defined in section
26 27-60-108 (2)(b), when performing follow-up care with individuals and
27 in developing a continuing care plan pursuant to subsection (8)(a)(I) of

1 this section. The facility may facilitate follow-up care through contracts
2 with community-based behavioral health providers or the ~~Colorado~~
3 ~~behavioral health crisis hotline~~ 988 CRISIS HOTLINE OPERATED PURSUANT
4 TO SECTION 27-64-103. If the facility facilitates follow-up care through a
5 third-party contract, the facility shall obtain authorization from the person
6 to provide follow-up care.

7 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-65-119, **amend**
8 (1)(d) as follows:

9 **27-65-119. Rights of respondents certified for short-term**
10 **treatment or long-term care and treatment.** (1) Each respondent
11 certified for short-term treatment or long-term care and treatment on an
12 inpatient basis pursuant to sections 27-65-108.5, 27-65-109, and
13 27-65-110 has the following rights and shall be advised of such rights by
14 the facility:

15 (d) To meet with or call a personal clinician, spiritual advisor,
16 counselor, ~~crisis hotline~~ THE 988 CRISIS HOTLINE, family member,
17 workplace, child care provider, or school at all reasonable times;

18 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-80-129, **amend**
19 (7)(c)(IV) and (7)(e) as follows:

20 **27-80-129. Regulation of recovery residences - rules -**
21 **definitions.** (7) (c) If a client is unable or no longer wishes to reside in
22 a recovery residence, or is discharged or transferred from a recovery
23 residence, prior to the client vacating the recovery residence, the recovery
24 residence staff shall:

25 (IV) Provide the client with the phone number to contact the
26 ~~Colorado crisis services hotline~~ 988 CRISIS HOTLINE OPERATED PURSUANT
27 TO SECTION 27-64-103, information on the availability of peer support

1 services, and information about the behavioral health services directory
2 provided by the behavioral health administration.

3 (e) The recovery residence shall, at a minimum, attempt to follow
4 up with the client's designated emergency contact at the time of discharge.
5 The recovery residence is encouraged to utilize peer support
6 professionals, as defined in section 27-60-108, when performing
7 follow-up care with clients a recovery residence may facilitate follow-up
8 care through contacts with community-based providers or the ~~Colorado~~
9 ~~crisis hotline~~ 988 CRISIS HOTLINE OPERATED PURSUANT TO SECTION
10 27-64-103.

11 **SECTION 9. Appropriation - adjustments to 2025 long bill.**

12 (1) To implement this act, appropriations made in the annual general
13 appropriation act for the 2025-26 state fiscal year to the department of
14 human services for use by the behavioral health administration are
15 adjusted as follows:

16 (a) The general fund appropriation for behavioral health crisis
17 response system services is decreased by \$200,000; and

18 (b) The appropriation for the behavioral health crisis response
19 system telephone hotline is decreased by \$3,863,938, which consists of
20 \$3,496,622 from the general fund and \$367,316 from the marijuana tax
21 cash fund created in section 39-28.8-501 (1), C.R.S.

22 (2) For the 2025-26 state fiscal year, \$3,863,938 is appropriated
23 to the department of human services for use by the behavioral health
24 administration. This appropriation is from the 988 crisis hotline cash fund
25 created in section 27-64-104 (1), C.R.S. This figure is subject to the "(I)"
26 notation as defined in the annual general appropriation act for the same
27 fiscal year. To implement this act, the administration may use this

1 appropriation for the behavioral health crisis response system telephone
2 hotline.

3 **SECTION 10. Effective date.** This act takes effect July 1, 2025.

4 **SECTION 11. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
5 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
7 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
8 institutions.