

HB 3069 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health

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Meeting Dates: 3/31, 4/5, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to study and make recommendations on Legislative changes needed to increase access to behavioral health services for all Oregonians. Requires OHA report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2022. Sunsets January 2, 2023.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Federal 9-8-8 Law
- Need for behavioral health crisis services
- Logistics of implementation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Defines terms. Established statewide coordinated crisis service system. Directs Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to require community mental health programs or authority provide community-based rapid crisis response services for individuals in need contacting the 9-8-8 suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis hotline. Established the 9-8-8 Fund for supporting the operation of the 9-8-8 system. Establishes tax for consumers and paying retail subscribers who have telecommunications services or interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol service. Requires OHA revise amount on March 1, 2026 and March 1st of each odd year thereafter. Prohibits local government from charging a fee or surcharge for 9-8-8 services. Allows OHA to establish committees or assign tasks to existing agencies, boards or committees to accomplish planning required for implementation and ongoing oversight of the statewide coordinated crisis service system. Aligns 9-8-8 coordinate crisis service with 9-1-1 liability and confidentiality laws. Declares emergency, effective on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

BACKGROUND:

In 2020, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act authorized 9-8-8 as the three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The act requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to designate 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline. The law also allows states to impose and collect a fee for providing 9-8-8 related services, but specifies that this fee must be held in a designated account to be spent only in support of 9-8-8 services. The act also requires that the FCC submit an annual report on state administration of these fees and that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Veterans Affairs jointly report on how to make the use of 9-8-8 operational and effective across the country. It further specifies that HHS develop a strategy to provide access to competent, specialized services for high-risk populations such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth; minorities; and rural individuals.

House Bill 3069 and the -2 amendments would establish Oregon's coordinated crisis system and 9-8-8 Fund.