

115TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H.R. 2345

AN ACT

To require the Federal Communications Commission to study the feasibility of designating a simple, easy-to-remember dialing code to be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. 2 This Act may be cited as the "National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2018". SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS. 4 5 In this Act— 6 (1) the term "Commission" means the Federal 7 Communications Commission; (2) the term "covered dialing code" means a 8 9 simple, easy-to-remember, 3-digit dialing code; and (3) the term "N11 dialing code" means an ab-10 breviated dialing code consisting of 3 digits, of 11 12 which— 13 (A) the first digit may be any digit other than "1" or "0"; and 14 (B) each of the last 2 digits is "1". 15 SEC. 3. STUDIES AND REPORTS. 17 (a) Primary Study.— 18 (1) In General.—The Commission, in coordi-19 nation with the Assistant Secretary for Mental 20 Health and Substance Use and the Secretary of Vet-21 erans Affairs, shall conduct a study that— 22 (A) examines the feasibility of designating 23 an N11 dialing code or other covered dialing 24 code to be used for a national suicide preven-25 tion and mental health crisis hotline system;

and

26

1	(B) analyzes the effectiveness of the Na-
2	tional Suicide Prevention Lifeline as of the date
3	on which the study is initiated, including how
4	well the lifeline is working to address the needs
5	of veterans.
6	(2) Requirements.—
7	(A) Commission.—In conducting the
8	study under paragraph (1), the Commission
9	shall—
10	(i) consider—
11	(I) each of the N11 dialing codes,
12	including the codes that are used for
13	other purposes; and
14	(II) other covered dialing codes;
15	(ii) consult with the North American
16	Numbering Council; and
17	(iii) review the information provided
18	by the Assistant Secretary for Mental
19	Health and Substance Use and the Sec-
20	retary of Veterans Affairs under subpara-
21	graphs (B) and (C), respectively, of this
22	paragraph.
23	(B) SAMHSA STUDY AND REPORT TO AS-
24	SIST COMMISSION.—To assist the Commission
25	in conducting the study under paragraph (1).

1	the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and
2	Substance Use shall analyze and, not later than
3	180 days after the date of enactment of this
4	Act, report to the Commission on—
5	(i) the potential impact of the des-
6	ignation of an N11 dialing code, or other
7	covered dialing code, for a suicide preven-
8	tion and mental health crisis hotline sys-
9	tem on—
10	(I) suicide prevention;
11	(II) crisis services; and
12	(III) other suicide prevention and
13	mental health crisis hotlines, includ-
14	ing—
15	(aa) the National Suicide
16	Prevention Lifeline; and
17	(bb) the Veterans Crisis
18	Line; and
19	(ii) possible recommendations for im-
20	proving the National Suicide Prevention
21	Lifeline generally, which may include—
22	(I) increased public education
23	and awareness; and
24	(II) improved infrastructure and
25	operations.

(C) VA STUDY AND REPORT TO ASSIST COMMISSION.—To assist the Commission in conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall study and, not later than 180 days after the date of enact-ment of this Act, report to the Commission on how well the National Suicide Prevention Life-line and the Veterans Crisis Line, as in effect on the date on which the study is initiated, is working to address the needs of veterans.

(b) Primary Commission Report.—

- (1) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall submit a report on the study conducted under subsection (a) that recommends whether a particular N11 dialing code or other covered dialing code should be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system to—
 - (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;
- (B) the Committee on Health, Education,Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

1	(C) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of
2	the Senate;
3	(D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
4	merce of the House of Representatives; and
5	(E) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of
6	the House of Representatives.
7	(2) Additional contents.—If the report sub-
8	mitted by the Commission under paragraph (1) rec-
9	ommends that a dialing code should be used, the re-
10	port shall also—
11	(A) outline the logistics of designating
12	such a dialing code;
13	(B) estimate the costs associated with des-
14	ignating such a dialing code, including—
15	(i) the costs incurred by service pro-
16	viders, including—
17	(I) translation changes in the
18	network; and
19	(II) cell site analysis and re-
20	programming by wireless carriers; and
21	(ii) the costs incurred by States and
22	localities;
23	(C) provide recommendations for desig-
24	nating such a dialing code;

1	(D) provide a cost-benefit analysis com
2	paring the recommended dialing code with the
3	National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, as in ef
4	fect on the date on which the report is sub
5	mitted; and
6	(E) make other recommendations, as ap
7	propriate, for improving the National Suicide
8	Prevention Lifeline generally, which may in
9	clude—
10	(i) increased public education and
11	awareness; and
12	(ii) improved infrastructure and oper
13	ations.
14	SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.
15	No additional funds are authorized to be appro
16	priated to carry out this Act. This Act shall be carried
17	out using amounts otherwise authorized.
	Passed the House of Representatives July 23, 2018
	Attest:

Clerk.

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