

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1015

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 Hot-
3 line Improvement Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act—

6 (1) the term “Commission” means the Federal
7 Communications Commission;

8 (2) the term “covered dialing code” means a
9 simple, easy-to-remember, 3-digit dialing code; and

10 (3) the term “N11 dialing code” means an ab-
11 breviated dialing code consisting of 3 digits, of
12 which—

13 (A) the first digit may be any digit other
14 than “1” or “0”; and

15 (B) each of the last 2 digits is “1”.

16 **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;
26 and

(B) analyzes the effectiveness of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline as of the date on which the study is initiated, including how well the lifeline is working to address the needs of veterans.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) COMMISSION.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

(i) consider—

(I) each of the N11 dialing codes, including the codes that are used for other purposes; and

(II) other covered dialing codes;

(ii) consult with the North American Numbering Council; and

(iii) review the information provided by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively, of this paragraph.

(B) SAMHSA STUDY AND REPORT TO ASSIST COMMISSION.—To assist the Commission 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.

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

11 (b) PRIMARY COMMISSION REPORT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission,
14 in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for
15 Mental Health and Substance Use and the Secretary
16 of Veterans Affairs, shall submit a report on the
17 study conducted under subsection (a) that rec-
18 ommends whether a particular N11 dialing code or
19 other covered dialing code should be used for a na-
20 tional suicide prevention and mental health crisis
21 hotline system to—

22 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
23 and Transportation of the Senate;

24 (B) the Committee on Health, Education,
25 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

1 (C) the Committee on Energy and Com-
2 merce of the House of Representatives.

3 (2) ADDITIONAL CONTENTS.—If the report sub-
4 mitted by the Commission under paragraph (1) rec-
5 ommends that a dialing code should be used, the re-
6 port shall also—

7 (A) outline the logistics of designating
8 such a dialing code;

9 (B) estimate the costs associated with des-
10 ignating such a dialing code, including—

11 (i) the costs incurred by service pro-
12 viders, including—

13 (I) translation changes in the
14 network; and

15 (II) cell site analysis and re-
16 programming by wireless carriers; and

17 (ii) the costs incurred by States and
18 localities;

19 (C) provide recommendations for desig-
20 nating such a dialing code;

21 (D) provide a cost-benefit analysis com-
22 paring the recommended dialing code with the
23 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, as in ef-
24 fect on the date on which the report is sub-
25 mitted; and

1 (E) make other recommendations, as ap-
2 propriate, for improving the National Suicide
3 Prevention Lifeline generally, which may in-
4 clude—

5 (i) increased public education and
6 awareness; and

7 (ii) improved infrastructure and oper-
8 ations.

Passed the Senate November 7, 2017.

Attest:

Secretary.

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