S.B. 73

SENATE BILL NO. 73–COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(ON BEHALF OF THE WASHOE REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 17, 2026

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to suicide prevention. (BDR 39-422)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State Highway Fund: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets **[**~~omitted material~~**]** is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to mental health; increasing the amount of the surcharge imposed on certain communication services to support a suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis hotline; authorizing the State Board of Health to adopt regulations to further increase the amount of the surcharge; prescribing the manner in which the additional revenue generated from such increases must be used; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing federal law authorizes a state to impose a fee or charge on a commercial mobile communication service or an IP-enabled voice service to fund the operations of a suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline established pursuant to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline program. Under existing federal law, the revenue generated from this fee or charge is required to be used only to pay costs reasonably attributable to ensuring the routing of calls to the 9-8-8 hotline to an appropriate crisis center and the provision of acute mental health, crisis outreach and stabilization services. (47 U.S.C. § 251a)

Existing state law provides for such a program by requiring: (1) the State Board of Health to impose a monthly surcharge of 35 cents on each access or trunk line of each customer of certain communication services; and (2) telecommunications companies and other providers who provide such communication services to collect the surcharge from customers and transfer the surcharge to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Human Services. (NRS 433.708)

Existing state law requires the Division to use the money generated from the surcharge to support the implementation and operation of a 9-8-8 hotline for persons considering suicide or otherwise in a behavioral health crisis including by providing or supporting the provision of certain services to persons who access the 9-8-8 hotline. (NRS 433.704, 433.708) Such services may include community-based intervention provided by mobile crisis teams and crisis stabilization services provided by certain hospitals. (NRS 433.704)

This bill increases from 35 cents to 45 cents the amount of the surcharge imposed on the access or trunk lines of customers of such telecommunications companies and other providers of such communication services to support the implementation of the 9-8-8 hotline. This bill also authorizes the Board to, by regulation, increase the amount of the surcharge as necessary to support services to persons who access the 9-8-8 hotline, except that any increase must not be more than the increase in a certain measure of inflation in health care costs. This bill requires the Division to use the revenue generated by the increase to the amount of the surcharge and all future increases to support: (1) the establishment of support centers to answer calls to the 9-8-8 hotline and coordinate the response to persons who access the 9-8-8 hotline; (2) the establishment of mobile crisis teams to provide community-based intervention for persons who access the 9-8-8 hotline; and (3) the provision of crisis stabilization services at hospitals that are crisis stabilization centers.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 433.708 is hereby amended to read as follows:

433.708 1. The ~~[State Board of Health]~~ ***Division*** shall impose a surcharge of ~~[35]~~ ***the greater of 45*** cents ***, or the amount established by regulation pursuant to subsection 8,*** for each line on:

(a) Each access line of each customer of a company that provides commercial mobile communication services or IP-enabled voice services in this State in accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 251a; and

(b) Each access line or trunk line of each customer to the local exchange of any telecommunications provider providing those lines in this State.

2. The companies and providers described in subsection 1 shall:

(a) Collect the surcharge described in subsection 1 from their customers; and

(b) Transfer the money collected to the Division on or before the last day of the month immediately following the month to which the surcharge applies.

3. The Crisis Response Account is hereby created in the State General Fund. Any money collected from the surcharge imposed pursuant to subsection 1 must be deposited in the State Treasury for credit to the Account. The Division shall administer the Account. The money in the Account:

(a) Must be used by the Division to carry out the provisions of NRS 433.702 to 433.710, inclusive, to the extent authorized by 47 U.S.C. § 251a; and

(b) Must not be used to supplant existing methods of funding that are available for those purposes.

4. The interest and income earned on the money in the Account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Account.

5. Any money remaining in the Account at the end of each fiscal year does not revert to the State General Fund but must be carried over into the next fiscal year.

6. The Division may accept gifts, grants and donations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of NRS 433.702 to 433.710, inclusive.

7. On or before April 1 of each year, the companies and providers described in subsection 1 shall report to the Division the average number of access lines and trunk lines in service which were subject to the surcharge imposed pursuant to subsection 1 for each calendar month of the immediately preceding year. Such information shall be deemed proprietary information regarding a trade secret which is subject to the provisions of NRS 333.333.

8. ***Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the State Board of Health may, by regulation, increase the amount of the surcharge imposed pursuant to subsection 1 at such times and to such amounts as the State Board of Health determines to be necessary to support the uses set forth in paragraphs (a), (b) and (e) of subsection 1 of NRS 433.704. Any increase pursuant to this subsection must not:***

(a) Cause the surcharge to exceed the amount calculated by adding to 45 cents the product of 45 cents multiplied by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, Medical Care Component, from July 2027, to the July immediately preceding the first fiscal year in which the increase in the surcharge will be imposed.

(b) Become effective before the July 1 immediately following the effective date of the regulation increasing the surcharge.

9. Any money in the Crisis Response Account that is attributable to the amount by which the surcharge imposed pursuant to subsection 1 exceeds 35 cents for each access line or trunk line described in that subsection, including, without limitation, any interest or income earned on money that is attributable to any such excess amount:

(a) Must be accounted for separately within the Account.

(b) May only be used by the Division, in the following order of priority, for the purposes set forth in paragraphs (a), (b) and (e) of subsection 1 of NRS 433.704.

(c) Must not be used to supplant existing methods of funding that are available for those purposes, including, without limitation, other funding available in the Account for those purposes.

10. As used in this section:

(a) "Access line" means any voice connection between a customer and a carrier that provides the customer with access to telecommunication in this State and allows a customer to access the hotline described in NRS 433.704 by dialing the digits 9-8-8.

(b) "Commercial mobile communication service" means commercial mobile service, as that term is defined in 47 U.S.C. § 251a, which is provided to a customer within this State as determined by the place of primary use, as that term is defined in 4 U.S.C. § 124.

(c) "IP-enabled voice service" has the meaning ascribed to it in 47 U.S.C. § 251a.

(d) "Trunk line" means a line which provides a channel between a switchboard owned by a customer of a telecommunications provider and the local exchange of the telecommunications provider.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2027.

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