

1 HJR48
2 217252-1
3 By Representatives Simpson, Ledbetter, Daniels and Rafferty
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 08-FEB-22

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8 EXTENDING THE DATE FOR REPORTING AND DISSOLUTION OF
9 THE STUDY COMMISSION ON THE 9-8-8 COMPREHENSIVE BEHAVIORAL
10 HEALTH CRISIS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM.
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12 WHEREAS, the 9-8-8 Comprehensive Behavioral Health
13 Crisis Communication System was created by the Legislature
14 during the 2021 Regular Session through the enactment of Act
15 2021-359, to study and provide recommendations for
16 implementation of the 9-8-8 system to enhance and expand
17 behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention
18 services before the new three-digit 9-8-8 crisis line is
19 nationally implemented on July 16, 2022, as required by the
20 National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 (Public Law:
21 116-172); and

22 WHEREAS, the study commission was hereafter known as
23 the 9-8-8 Study Commission and its membership organized and
24 met pursuant to Act 2021-359; and

25 WHEREAS, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental
26 Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 9-8-8 Appropriations
27 Report was delayed by a year following the passage of the

1 National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, and was not
2 made available to the state for use by the 9-8-8 Study
3 Commission until December 2021; and

4 WHEREAS, the 9-8-8 Study Commission submitted a
5 report of its findings and recommendations to the Alabama
6 Legislature on January 11, 2022, recognizing that additional
7 data is needed to justify any expenditures and that time is
8 needed to design the technology infrastructure that will
9 support a comprehensive communication system, thus
10 necessitating an extension of the 9-8-8 Study Commission; now
11 therefore,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
13 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the 9-8-8 Study Commission,
14 created in Act 2021-359, is extended through the last
15 legislative day of the 2023 Regular Session to continue its
16 work to ensure that all Alabamians receive consistent and
17 effective behavioral health crisis services no matter where
18 they live, work, or travel in the state, and to make
19 recommendations to the Legislature to address this important
20 initiative.

21 (a) The 9-8-8 Study Commission shall continue its
22 work and maintain its membership, as described in Act
23 2021-359, to consider all of the following:

24 (1) How twenty-four seven statewide coverage
25 for 9-8-8 calls, chats, and texts will be achieved in each
26 county.

1 (2) Strategies for identifying and supporting
2 investment in new technology to triage calls and link
3 individuals to follow-up care.

4 (3) Funding to boost the financial stability and
5 sustainability of call centers and evidence-based crisis
6 services in every county, so that people experiencing
7 behavioral health crises can receive higher quality support.

8 (4) Increasing of capacity at the call centers
9 answering 9-8-8 contacts, for long-term improvement of answer
10 rates for 9-8-8 calls.

11 (5) Requirements for compliance with the National
12 Suicide Prevention Lifeline Requirements and Best Practices
13 Guidelines for Operational and Clinical Standards.

14 (6) Ways for call centers to maintain local resource
15 and referral listings and ensure linkages to local community
16 crisis services.

17 (7) Ways for centers to provide follow-up services
18 to 9-8-8 callers, texters, and chatters based on Lifeline best
19 practices and guidelines.

20 (8) Requirements for compliance with the National
21 Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 and the Federal
22 Communications Commission's rules adopted July 16, 2020 to
23 assure that all Alabama residents receive an effective level
24 of 9-8-8 and crisis behavioral health services no matter where
25 they live, work, or travel in the state.

26 (b) The 9-8-8 Study Commission shall present a
27 report of its findings, which shall include its

1 recommendations for legislation, if any, to the Legislature on
2 or before the final legislative day of the 2023 Regular
3 Session, at which time it shall stand dissolved.