

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 498

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions

AN ACT

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to secure
the suicide prevention lifeline from cybersecurity inci-
dents, and for other purposes.

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 “9–8–8 Lifeline Cyber-
3 security Responsibility Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PROTECTING SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE**
5 **FROM CYBERSECURITY INCIDENTS.**

6 (a) NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE PRO-
7 GRAM.—Section 520E–3(b) of the Public Health Service
8 Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c(b)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the
10 end;

11 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at
12 the end and inserting “; and”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(6) taking such steps as may be necessary to
15 ensure the suicide prevention hotline is protected
16 from cybersecurity incidents and to eliminate known
17 cybersecurity vulnerabilities of such hotline.”.

18 (b) REPORTING.—Section 520E–3 of the Public
19 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c) is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
21 section (g); and

22 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(f) CYBERSECURITY REPORTING.—

25 “(1) NOTIFICATION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The program’s net-
2 work administrator receiving Federal funding
3 pursuant to subsection (a) shall report to the
4 Assistant Secretary, in a manner that protects
5 personal privacy, consistent with applicable
6 Federal and State privacy laws—

7 “(i) any identified cybersecurity vul-
8 nerability to the program within a reason-
9 able amount of time after identification of
10 such a vulnerability; and

11 “(ii) any identified cybersecurity inci-
12 dent to the program within a reasonable
13 amount of time after identification of such
14 an incident.

15 “(B) LOCAL AND REGIONAL CRISIS CEN-
16 TERS.—Local and regional crisis centers par-
17 ticipating in the program shall report to the
18 program’s network administrator receiving Fed-
19 eral funding pursuant to subsection (a), in a
20 manner that protects personal privacy, con-
21 sistent with applicable Federal and State pri-
22 vacy laws—

23 “(i) any identified cybersecurity vul-
24 nerability to the program within a reason-

1 able amount of time after identification of
2 such a vulnerability; and

3 “(ii) any identified cybersecurity inci-
4 dent to the program within a reasonable
5 amount of time after identification of such
6 an incident.

7 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—If the program’s network
8 administrator receiving funding pursuant to sub-
9 section (a) discovers, or is informed by a local or re-
10 gional crisis center pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) of,
11 a cybersecurity vulnerability or incident, within a
12 reasonable amount of time after such discovery or
13 receipt of information, such entity shall report the
14 vulnerability or incident to the Assistant Secretary.

15 “(3) CLARIFICATION.—

16 “(A) OVERSIGHT.—

17 “(i) LOCAL AND REGIONAL CRISIS
18 CENTER.—Except as provided in clause
19 (ii), local and regional crisis centers par-
20 ticipating in the program shall oversee all
21 technology each center employs in the pro-
22 vision of services as a participant in the
23 program.

24 “(ii) NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR.—
25 The program’s network administrator re-

1 ceiving Federal funding pursuant to sub-
2 section (a) shall oversee the technology
3 each crisis center employs in the provision
4 of services as a participant in the program
5 if such oversight responsibilities are estab-
6 lished in the applicable network participa-
7 tion agreement.

8 “(B) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—The
9 cybersecurity incident reporting requirements
10 under this subsection shall supplement, and not
11 supplant, cybersecurity incident reporting re-
12 quirements under other provisions of applicable
13 Federal law that are in effect on the date of the
14 enactment of the 9–8–8 Lifeline Cybersecurity
15 Responsibility Act.”.

16 (c) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date
17 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of
18 the United States shall—

19 (1) conduct and complete a study that evaluates
20 cybersecurity risks and vulnerabilities associated
21 with the 9–8–8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline;
22 and

23 (2) submit a report of the findings of such
24 study to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
25 the House of Representatives and the Committee on

1 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-
2 ate.

Passed the House of Representatives March 5,
2024.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.