

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1493

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 9, 2023

Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. MULLIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to secure the suicide prevention lifeline from cybersecurity incidents, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “9–8–8 Lifeline Cyber-
5 security Responsibility Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROTECTING SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE**
 2 **FROM CYBERSECURITY INCIDENTS.**

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

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

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

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

11 “(6) coordinating with the Chief Information
 12 Security Officer of the Department of Health and
 13 Human Services to take such steps as may be nec-
 14 essary to ensure the program is protected from cy-
 15 bersecurity incidents and eliminates known cyberse-
 16 curity vulnerabilities.”.

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

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

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

23 “(f) CYBERSECURITY REPORTING.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

25 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The program’s net-
 26 work administrator receiving Federal funding

1 pursuant to subsection (a) shall report to the
2 Assistant Secretary, in a manner that protects
3 personal privacy, consistent with applicable
4 Federal and State privacy laws—

5 “(i) any identified cybersecurity
6 vulnerabilities to the program within 24
7 hours of identification of such a vulner-
8 ability; and

9 “(ii) any identified cybersecurity inci-
10 dents to the program within 24 hours of
11 identification of such incident.

12 “(B) LOCAL AND REGIONAL CRISIS CEN-
13 TERS.—Local and regional crisis centers par-
14 ticipating in the program shall report to the
15 program’s network administrator identified in
16 subparagraph (A), in a manner that protects
17 personal privacy, consistent with applicable
18 Federal and State privacy laws—

19 “(i) any identified cybersecurity
20 vulnerabilities to the program within 24
21 hours of identification of such vulner-
22 ability; and

23 “(ii) any identified cybersecurity inci-
24 dents to the program within 24 hours of
25 identification of such incident.

1 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—If the program’s network
2 administrator receiving funding pursuant to sub-
3 section (a) discovers, or is informed by a local or re-
4 gional crisis center pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) of,
5 a cybersecurity vulnerability or incident, within 24
6 hours of such discovery or receipt of information,
7 such entity shall report the vulnerability or incident
8 to the Assistant Secretary.

9 “(3) CLARIFICATION.—

10 “(A) OVERSIGHT.—

11 “(i) LOCAL AND REGIONAL CRISIS
12 CENTER.—Except as provided in clause
13 (ii), local and regional crisis centers par-
14 ticipating in the program shall oversee all
15 technology each center employs in the pro-
16 vision of services as a participant in the
17 program.

18 “(ii) NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR.—

19 The program’s network administrator re-
20 ceiving Federal funding pursuant to sub-
21 section (a) shall oversee the technology
22 each crisis center employs in the provision
23 of services as a participant in the program
24 if such oversight responsibilities are estab-

1 lished in the applicable network participa-
2 tion agreement.

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

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

14 (1) conduct and complete a study that evaluates
15 cybersecurity risks and vulnerabilities associated
16 with the 9–8–8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline;
17 and

18 (2) submit a report of the findings of such
19 study to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
20 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
21 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-
22 ate.

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