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H.B. 468
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Pavliga

Amy L. Archer, Research Analyst

SUMMARY

9-8-8 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline

- Establishes a 9-8-8 Administrator within the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to oversee the administration of the 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline System (9-8-8 Hotline) in Ohio.

9-8-8 Fund

- Creates the 9-8-8 Fund in the State Treasury, to consist of all money from the following sources:
 - Appropriations made by the General Assembly;
 - Money awarded to the state by donation, gift, or bequest, and other money received for purposes of the 9-8-8 Fund;
 - Interest or other earnings on the fund.
- Specifies that money in the 9-8-8 Fund is not subject to transfer to any other fund, and any money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year cannot revert to the General Revenue Fund, but must remain in the fund.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Background

In July 2020, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated 9-8-8 as the three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to aid rapid access to suicide prevention and mental health support services.¹

9-8-8 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline

The bill establishes a 9-8-8 Administrator within the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to oversee the administration of the 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline System (9-8-8 Hotline) in Ohio.²

The bill defines the following terms relating to the 9-8-8 Hotline:

- “9-8-8 Administrator” is the administrator of the 9-8-8 Hotline system in Ohio, as established under the bill.
- “9-8-8 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline” or “9-8-8 Hotline” is the 9-8-8 universal telephone number designated for use within the United States under federal law, for the purpose of the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline system.³

9-8-8 Fund

The bill creates the 9-8-8 Fund in the State Treasury. The fund is to consist of all money from the following sources:

- Appropriations made by the General Assembly;
- Money awarded to the state by donation, gift, or bequest, and other money received for purposes of the 9-8-8 Fund;
- Interest or other earnings on the fund.

Under the bill, money in the 9-8-8 Fund is not subject to transfer to any other fund. Any money remaining in the fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year cannot revert to the General Revenue Fund but must remain in the fund.⁴

HISTORY

¹ FCC. “[Designating 988 for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#),” July 17, 2020, last accessed on March 16, 2022.

² R.C. 5119.801.

³ R.C. 5119.80; “Communications Act of 1934,” 47 United States Code 251(e), as amended by the “National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020,” Pub. L. No. 116-172, not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 5119.802.

Action	Date
Introduced	10-27-21
Reported, H. Behavioral Health & Recovery Supports	03-21-22
