



AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 1015

To require the Federal Communications Commission to study the feasibility of designating a simple, easy-to-remember dialing code to be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended to be proposed by Mr. SULLIVAN

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Suicide Hot-
5 line Improvement Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

8 (1) the term “Commission” means the Federal
9 Communications Commission;

10 (2) the term “covered dialing code” means a
11 simple, easy-to-remember, 3-digit dialing code; and

1 (3) the term “N11 dialing code” means an ab-
2 breviated dialing code consisting of 3 digits, of
3 which—

4 (A) the first digit may be any digit other
5 than “1” or “0”; and

6 (B) each of the last 2 digits is “1”.

7 **SEC. 3. STUDIES AND REPORTS.**

8 (a) PRIMARY STUDY.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, in coordi-
10 nation with the Assistant Secretary for Mental
11 Health and Substance Use and the Secretary of Vet-
12 erans Affairs, shall conduct a study that—

13 (A) examines the feasibility of designating
14 an N11 dialing code or other covered dialing
15 code to be used for a national suicide preven-
16 tion and mental health crisis hotline system;
17 and

18 (B) analyzes the effectiveness of the Na-
19 tional Suicide Prevention Lifeline as of the date
20 on which the study is initiated, including how
21 well the lifeline is working to address the needs
22 of veterans.

23 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (A) COMMISSION.—In conducting the
2 study under paragraph (1), the Commission
3 shall—

4 (i) consider—

5 (I) each of the N11 dialing codes,
6 including the codes that are used for
7 other purposes; and

8 (II) other covered dialing codes;

9 (ii) consult with the North American
10 Numbering Council; and

11 (iii) review the information provided
12 by the Assistant Secretary for Mental
13 Health and Substance Use and the Sec-
14 retary of Veterans Affairs under subpara-
15 graphs (B) and (C), respectively, of this
16 paragraph.

17 (B) SAMHSA STUDY AND REPORT TO AS-
18 SIST COMMISSION.—To assist the Commission
19 in conducting the study under paragraph (1),
20 the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and
21 Substance Use shall analyze and, not later than
22 180 days after the date of enactment of this
23 Act, report to the Commission on—

24 (i) the potential impact of the des-
25 ignation of an N11 dialing code, or other

1 covered dialing code, for a suicide preven-
2 tion and mental health crisis hotline sys-
3 tem on—

4 (I) suicide prevention;

5 (II) crisis services; and

6 (III) other suicide prevention and
7 mental health crisis hotlines, includ-
8 ing—

9 (aa) the National Suicide
10 Prevention Lifeline; and

11 (bb) the Veterans Crisis
12 Line; and

13 (ii) possible recommendations for im-
14 proving the National Suicide Prevention
15 Lifeline generally, which may include—

16 (I) increased public education
17 and awareness; and

18 (II) improved infrastructure and
19 operations.

20 (C) VA STUDY AND REPORT TO ASSIST
21 COMMISSION.—To assist the Commission in
22 conducting the study under paragraph (1), the
23 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall study and,
24 not later than 180 days after the date of enact-
25 ment of this Act, report to the Commission on

1 how well the National Suicide Prevention Life-
2 line and the Veterans Crisis Line, as in effect
3 on the date on which the study is initiated, is
4 working to address the needs of veterans.

5 (b) PRIMARY COMMISSION REPORT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission,
8 in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for
9 Mental Health and Substance Use and the Secretary
10 of Veterans Affairs, shall submit a report on the
11 study conducted under subsection (a) that rec-
12 ommends whether a particular N11 dialing code or
13 other covered dialing code should be used for a na-
14 tional suicide prevention and mental health crisis
15 hotline system to—

16 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
17 and Transportation of the Senate;

18 (B) the Committee on Health, Education,
19 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

20 (C) the Committee on Energy and Com-
21 merce of the House of Representatives.

22 (2) ADDITIONAL CONTENTS.—If the report sub-
23 mitted by the Commission under paragraph (1) rec-
24 ommends that a dialing code should be used, the re-
25 port shall also—

1 (A) outline the logistics of designating
2 such a dialing code;

3 (B) estimate the costs associated with des-
4 ignating such a dialing code, including—

5 (i) the costs incurred by service pro-
6 viders, including—

7 (I) translation changes in the
8 network; and

9 (II) cell site analysis and re-
10 programming by wireless carriers; and

11 (ii) the costs incurred by States and
12 localities;

13 (C) provide recommendations for desig-
14 nating such a dialing code;

15 (D) provide a cost-benefit analysis com-
16 paring the recommended dialing code with the
17 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, as in ef-
18 fect on the date on which the report is sub-
19 mitted; and

20 (E) make other recommendations, as ap-
21 propriate, for improving the National Suicide
22 Prevention Lifeline generally, which may in-
23 clude—

24 (i) increased public education and
25 awareness; and

- 1 (ii) improved infrastructure and oper-
- 2 ations.