

GARDNER - SUBSTITUTE
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ALB19B30

S.L.C.



AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—116th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 2661

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to designate 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line, and for other purposes.

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 _____

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 Designation Act of 2019”.
- 6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**
- 7 Congress finds the following:
- 8 (1) According to the American Foundation for
- 9 Suicide Prevention, on average, there are 129 sui-
- 10 cides per day in the United States.

1 (2) To prevent future suicides, it is critical to
2 transition the cumbersome, existing 10-digit Na-
3 tional Suicide Hotline to a universal, easy-to-remem-
4 ber, 3-digit phone number and connect people in cri-
5 sis with life-saving resources.

6 (3) It is essential that people in the United
7 States have access to a 3-digit national suicide hot-
8 line across all geographic locations.

9 (4) The designated suicide hotline number will
10 need to be both familiar and recognizable to all peo-
11 ple in the United States.

12 **SEC. 3. UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR NATIONAL**
13 **SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH**
14 **CRISIS HOTLINE SYSTEM.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(e) of the Commu-
16 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)) is amended by
17 adding at the end the following:

18 “(4) UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR NA-
19 TIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH
20 CRISIS HOTLINE SYSTEM.—9-8-8 is designated as
21 the universal telephone number within the United
22 States for the purpose of the national suicide pre-
23 vention and mental health crisis hotline system oper-
24 ating through the National Suicide Prevention Life-
25 line maintained by the Assistant Secretary for Men-

1 tal Health and Substance Use under section 520E–
2 3 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
3 290bb–36c) and through the Veterans Crisis Line
4 maintained by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5 under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States
6 Code.”.

7 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
8 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 1 year
9 after the date of enactment of this Act.

10 (c) REQUIRED REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Sec-
12 retary for Mental Health and Substance Use and the Sec-
13 retary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit a report
14 that details the resources necessary to make the use of
15 9–8–8, as designated under paragraph (4) of section
16 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.
17 251(e)), as added by subsection (a) of this section, oper-
18 ational and effective across the United States to—

19 (1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
20 Transportation of the Senate;

21 (2) the Committee on Appropriations of the
22 Senate;

23 (3) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
24 the House of Representatives; and

1 (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the
2 House of Representatives.

3 **SEC. 4. STATE AUTHORITY OVER FEES.**

4 (a) AUTHORITY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act, any
6 amendment made by this Act, the Communications
7 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), or any Com-
8 mission regulation or order may prevent the imposi-
9 tion and collection of a fee or charge applicable to
10 a commercial mobile service or an IP-enabled voice
11 service specifically designated by a State, a political
12 subdivision of a State, an Indian Tribe, or village or
13 regional corporation serving a region established
14 pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
15 Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) for the support or im-
16 plementation of 9-8-8 services, if the fee or charge
17 is held in a sequestered account to be obligated or
18 expended only in support of 9-8-8 services, or en-
19 hancements of such services, as specified in the pro-
20 vision of State or local law adopting the fee or
21 charge.

22 (2) LIMIT ON FEE OR CHARGE.—For each class
23 of subscribers to IP-enabled voice services, the fee or
24 charge may not exceed the amount of any such fee

1 or charge applicable to the same class of subscribers
2 to telecommunications services.

3 (b) **FEE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT.**—To ensure effi-
4 ciency, transparency, and accountability in the collection
5 and expenditure of a fee or charge for the support or im-
6 plementation of 9–8–8 services, not later than 2 years
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
8 thereafter, the Commission shall submit to the Commit-
9 tees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Ap-
10 propriations of the Senate and the Committees on Energy
11 and Commerce and Appropriations of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives a report that—

13 (1) details the status in each State of the collec-
14 tion and distribution of such fees or charges; and

15 (2) includes findings on the amount of revenues
16 obligated or expended by each State or political sub-
17 division thereof for any purpose other than the pur-
18 pose for which any such fees or charges are speci-
19 fied.

20 (c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

21 (1) **COMMERCIAL MOBILE SERVICE.**—The term
22 “commercial mobile service” has the meaning given
23 that term under section 332(d) of the Communica-
24 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)).

1 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
2 means the Federal Communications Commission.

3 (3) IP-ENABLED VOICE SERVICE.—The term
4 “IP-enabled voice service” shall include—

5 (A) an interconnected VoIP service, as de-
6 fined in section 9.3 of the title 47 of the Code
7 of Federal Regulations, or any successor there-
8 to; and

9 (B) a one-way interconnected VoIP service.

10 (4) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
11 ing given that term in section 7 of the Wireless
12 Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (47
13 U.S.C. 615b).

14 (5) TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE.—The
15 term “telecommunications service” has the meaning
16 given that term in section 3 of the Communications
17 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

18 **SEC. 5. LOCATION IDENTIFICATION REPORT.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Commu-
21 nications Commission shall submit to the appropriate com-
22 mittees a report that examines the feasibility and cost of
23 including an automatic dispatchable location that would
24 be conveyed with a 9–8–8 call, regardless of the techno-
25 logical platform used and including with calls from multi-

1 line telephone systems (as defined in section 6502 of the
2 Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012
3 (47 U.S.C. 1471)).

4 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES.—The term
6 “appropriate committees” means the following:

7 (A) The Committee on Commerce, Science,
8 and Transportation of the Senate.

9 (B) The Committee on Health, Education,
10 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

11 (C) The Committee on Energy and Com-
12 merce of the House of Representatives.

13 (2) DISPATCHABLE LOCATION.—The term
14 “dispatchable location” means the street address of
15 the calling party and additional information such as
16 room number, floor number, or similar information
17 necessary to adequately identify the location of the
18 calling party.

19 **SEC. 6. REPORT ON CERTAIN TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

20 (a) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the
21 Senate that—

22 (1) youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual,
23 transgender, or queer (referred to in this section as
24 “LGBTQ”) are more than 4 times more likely to
25 contemplate suicide than their peers;

1 (2) 1 in 5 LGBTQ youth and more than 1 in
2 3 transgender youth report attempting suicide this
3 past year; and

4 (3) the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
5 Services Administration must be equipped to provide
6 specialized resources to this at-risk community.

7 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
8 of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary for Men-
9 tal Health and Substance Use shall submit to the Com-
10 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
11 Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
12 Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Energy and
13 Commerce of the House of Representatives a report
14 that—

15 (1) details a strategy, to be developed in con-
16 sultation with 1 or more organizations with expertise
17 in suicide of LGBTQ youth as well as 1 or more or-
18 ganizations with expertise in suicide of other high
19 risk populations, for the Substance Abuse and Men-
20 tal Health Services Administration to offer, support,
21 or provide technical assistance to training programs
22 for National Suicide Prevention Lifeline counselors
23 to increase competency in serving LGBTQ youth
24 and other high risk populations; and

25 (2) includes recommendations regarding—

1 (A) the facilitation of access to services
2 that are provided to specially trained staff and
3 partner organizations for LGBTQ individuals
4 and other high risk populations; and

5 (B) a strategy for optimally implementing
6 an Integrated Voice Response, or other equally
7 effective mechanism, to allow National Suicide
8 Prevention Lifeline callers who are LGBTQ
9 youth or members of other high risk popu-
10 lations to access specialized services.