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S.F. No. 2588 – 988 Suicide and crisis lifeline

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Date: March 15, 2023

Section 1 [988 Suicide and crisis lifeline] requires the commissioner of health to designate and oversee a lifeline center or network of lifeline centers to answer 988 contacts from people in Minnesota accessing the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Subdivision 1. [Definitions] provides definitions.

Subd. 2 [988 hotline; lifeline centers] requires the 988 hotline center to meet the stated requirements, including connecting people in crisis to services, collaborate and coordinate service with appropriate providers or centers, and offer follow-up services. The commissioner must use rulemaking authority to allow information sharing and communication between crisis and emergency response systems. The commissioner must work with other lifeline resources to ensure public messaging about 988 services are consistent. The commissioner must annually report to the legislature on use of the 988 hotline.

Subd. 3 [988 special revenue account] establishes the dedicated 988 special revenue account in the special revenue fund to create and maintain a statewide 988 suicide prevention crisis system in accordance with federal law. Money in the account may only be spent for costs of implementing and operating the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline and related costs. The commissioner must annually report to the legislature and the Federal Communications Commission on use of the account.

Subd. 4 [988 telecommunications fee] requires the commissioner, in compliance with federal law, to impose a monthly statewide fee on subscribers of wireline, wireless, and IP-enabled voice service. Providers must collect the fees and transfer them to the commissioner of public safety.

Subdivision 5 [988 fee for prepaid wireless telecommunication services] specifies prepaid wireless services are subject to the prepaid wireless fee established in section 2 instead of the fee in subdivision 4.

Section 2 [Fees imposed] imposes a prepaid wireless 988 fee on each retail transaction for prepaid wireless services.

Section 3 [Fee collected] requires prepaid wireless 988 fees to be collected by the seller from the consumer for each retail transaction.

Section 4 [Remittance] provides that the prepaid wireless 988 fees are the responsibility of the consumer except the seller is required to remit the fees.

Section 5 [Exclusion for calculating other charges] specifies the combined amount of all prepaid wireless fees, including the 988 fee, must not be included in the base price for determining other taxes or fees.

Section 6 [Fee changes] specifies that prepaid wireless 988 fees must be changed proportionally with other fee changes.

Section 7 [Remittance] requires prepaid wireless 988 fees collected by sellers to be remitted to the commissioner of revenue with other prepaid wireless fees.

Section 8 [Seller's fee retention] allows a seller to deduct and retain three percent of prepaid wireless 988 fees.

Section 9 [Fees deposited] requires the commissioner of revenue to deposit the fees attributable to the prepaid wireless 988 fee in the 988 special revenue account. The commissioner may deduct and deposit two percent of the prepaid wireless fees into an account to be used for reimbursing the departments costs of administering the fee collection.

Section 10 [Appropriation] appropriates \$8 million in fiscal year 2024 and \$4 million in fiscal year 2025 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for grants for the operation of 988 lifeline centers in Minnesota.