

SENATE BILL 241

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2lr1475
CF 2lr1524

By: **Senator Augustine**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2022

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services – 9–8–8 Trust Fund**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the 9–8–8 Trust Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund;
4 requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; requiring the
5 Maryland Department of Health to designate 9–8–8 as the primary phone number
6 for the State’s behavioral health crisis hotline; requiring the Department to work to
7 promote public messaging relating to 9–8–8 services in a certain manner; and
8 generally relating to behavioral health crisis response services and the 9–8–8
9 hotline.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 7.5–5A–01 through 7.5–5A–04 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 5A.
13 9–8–8 Trust Fund”
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article – State Finance and Procurement
18 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2021 Replacement Volume)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

22 Article – State Finance and Procurement
23 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)144. and 145.
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2021 Replacement Volume)

26 BY adding to

27 Article – State Finance and Procurement

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)146.
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2021 Replacement Volume)

4 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
5 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

6 **Article – Health – General**

7 **SUBTITLE 5A. 9–8–8 TRUST FUND.**

8 **7.5–5A–01.**

9 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, “FUND” MEANS THE 9–8–8 TRUST FUND.**

10 **7.5–5A–02.**

11 **(A) THERE IS A 9–8–8 TRUST FUND.**

12 **(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE REIMBURSEMENT FOR**
13 **COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH:**

14 **(1) DESIGNATING AND MAINTAINING 9–8–8 AS THE UNIVERSAL**
15 **TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR A NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH**
16 **CRISIS HOTLINE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE**
17 **DESIGNATION ACT OF 2020; AND**

18 **(2) DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A STATEWIDE INITIATIVE FOR**
19 **THE COORDINATION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTINUUM OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
20 **CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES IN THE STATE, INCLUDING:**

21 **(I) CRISIS CALL CENTERS;**

22 **(II) MOBILE CRISIS TEAM SERVICES;**

23 **(III) CRISIS STABILIZATION CENTERS; AND**

24 **(IV) OTHER ACUTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES.**

25 **(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

26 **(D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT**
27 **SUBJECT TO § 7–302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

1 **(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,**
2 **AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

3 **(E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

4 **(1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;**

5 **(2) INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND**

6 **(3) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR**
7 **THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

8 **(F) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSE OF**
9 **THE FUND.**

10 **(G) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**
11 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

12 **(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**
13 **THE FUND.**

14 **(H) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE**
15 **WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

16 **(I) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSE**
17 **OF THE FUND IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF**
18 **FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR CARRYING OUT THE**
19 **PURPOSE OF THE FUND.**

20 **(J) NO PART OF THE FUND MAY REVERT OR BE CREDITED TO:**

21 **(1) THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE; OR**

22 **(2) ANY OTHER SPECIAL FUND OF THE STATE.**

23 **(K) THE FUND IS SUBJECT TO AUDIT BY THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE**
24 **AUDITS AS PROVIDED IN § 2-1220 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

25 **7.5-5A-03.**

26 **THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FEDERAL SUBSTANCE**
27 **ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, THE NATIONAL**
28 **SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE, THE NATIONAL VETERANS CRISIS LINE, AND**

1 OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITIES, SHALL WORK TO PROMOTE THE PUBLIC
2 MESSAGING OF 9-8-8 SERVICES IN A CONSISTENT MANNER.

3 **7.5-5A-04.**

4 ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT
5 A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE, THE SENATE BUDGET AND
6 TAXATION COMMITTEE, AND THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, IN
7 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THAT
8 INCLUDES FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR A DETAILED
9 DESCRIPTION OF:

10 (1) THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS TRANSFERRED AND DISTRIBUTED FROM
11 THE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7.5-5A-02(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE;

12 (2) THE ADDITIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE FUNDING IN EACH
13 LOCAL JURISDICTION;

14 (3) THE AMOUNT OF ANY UNSPENT FUNDS IN THE FUND; AND

15 (4) THE REASONS FUNDS IDENTIFIED UNDER ITEM (3) OF THIS
16 SECTION WERE NOT SPENT.

17 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

18 6-226.

19 (a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless
20 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the
21 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the
22 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to
23 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General
24 Fund of the State.

25 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply
26 to the following funds:

27 144. the Health Equity Resource Community Reserve Fund;
28 [and]

29 145. the Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund; AND

30 **146. THE 9-8-8 TRUST FUND.**

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That before July 16, 2022, the

1 Maryland Department of Health shall designate 9–8–8 as the primary phone number for
2 the State’s behavioral health crisis hotline to provide crisis intervention services and crisis
3 care coordination to individuals accessing suicide prevention and behavioral health services
4 from any jurisdiction within the State 24 hours a day, 7 days a week under the federal
5 National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020.

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, for fiscal year 2024, the
7 Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$10,000,000 to the
8 9–8–8 Trust Fund established under § 7.5–5A–02 of the Health – General Article, as
9 enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
11 1, 2022.