

**SB0974/273828/1**

BY: Budget and Taxation Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 974  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 18, after “Section” insert “7.5-5A-01(i).”; in the same line, after “7.5-5A-03.1” insert a comma; and after line 20, insert:

“BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Health - General

Section 7.5-5A-01(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 Replacement Volume)

(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Health - General

Section 7.5-5A-01(i), 7.5-5A-02(e) and (l)(1), and 7.5-5A-04

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 Replacement Volume)

(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Health - General

Section 7.5-5A-02(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 Replacement Volume)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, after line 14, insert:

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**“(F) ‘‘LIFELINE PROGRAM’’ MEANS THE FEDERAL LIFELINE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.”;**

in lines 15 and 22, strike **“(F)”** and **“(G)”**, respectively, and substitute **“(G)”** and **“(H)”**, respectively; and strike in their entirety lines 25 and 26 and substitute:

**“(I) ‘‘TELEPHONE COMPANY’’ HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1-101 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE.”.**

On page 3, strike in their entirety lines 20 and 21; in lines 22, 23, and 24, strike **“(3)”**, **“(4)”**, and **“(5)”**, respectively, and substitute **“(2)”**, **“(3)”**, and **“(4)”**, respectively; in line 26, strike “carrying” and substitute “:

**(1) CARRYING”;**

and in the same line, after the second “Fund” insert “**; AND**

**(2) ANY RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE COMPTROLLER”.**

On page 4, after line 11, insert:

**“(L) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMPTROLLER SHALL DISTRIBUTE TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE COST ACCOUNT THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE FEES AND TO COVER THE EXPENSES OF CONDUCTING AUDITS UNDER THIS SECTION FROM THE 9-8-8 FEE REVENUE COLLECTED AND REMITTED TO THE COMPTROLLER UNDER § 7.5-5A-03.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

**(2) THE AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE COST ACCOUNT MAY NOT EXCEED:**

**(i) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2025, 2026, AND 2027, 6% OF THE FEES COLLECTED BY THE COMPTROLLER; AND**

**(ii) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2028 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, 3% OF THE FEES COLLECTED BY THE COMPTROLLER.**

**(M) AFTER MAKING THE DISTRIBUTION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (L) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMPTROLLER SHALL DEPOSIT THE 9-8-8 FEE REVENUE IN THE FUND.**”;

in line 17, strike “AN ESTABLISHED PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT” and substitute “THE 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE”; in line 26, after “(C)” insert “**(1)**”; in the same line, strike “EACH” and substitute “**EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH**”; and after line 27, insert:

**“(2) A SUBSCRIBER WHO IS ENROLLED IN THE LIFELINE PROGRAM MAY NOT BE REQUIRED TO PAY A 9-8-8 FEE.”**

On page 5, strike in their entirety lines 25 and 26.

On page 6, strike in their entirety lines 10 and 11; in line 12, strike “(1)”; strike in their entirety lines 15 through 17, inclusive; and after line 24, insert:

“7.5-5A-04.

**On or before December 1 each year, the Department shall submit a report to the Legislative Policy Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, and the**

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House Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, that includes for the immediately preceding fiscal year a detailed description of:

(1) The amount of funds transferred and distributed from the Fund in accordance with § 7.5-5A-02(b) of this subtitle;

**(2) THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS COLLECTED AND REMITTED TO THE COMPTROLLER UNDER § 7.5-5A-03.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

~~[(2)]~~ (3) The additional services provided by the funding in each local jurisdiction;

~~[(3)]~~ (4) The amount of any unspent funds in the Fund; and

~~[(4)]~~ (5) The reasons funds identified under item ~~[(3)]~~ (4) of this section were not spent.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Health – General**

7.5-5A-01.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

**(1) “SELLER” MEANS A PERSON THAT SELLS PREPAID WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE TO ANOTHER PERSON.**

~~[(i)]~~ (J) “Telephone company” has the meaning stated in § 1-101 of the Public Utilities Article.

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7.5-5A-02.

(a) There is a 9-8-8 Trust Fund.

(e) The Fund consists of:

(1) Money from the 9-8-8 fee collected and remitted to the Comptroller under § 7.5-5A-03.1 of this subtitle;

**(2) MONEY FROM THE PREPAID WIRELESS 9-8-8 FEE COLLECTED AND REMITTED TO THE COMPTROLLER UNDER § 7.5-5A-03.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

~~[(2)]~~ **(3)** Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund;

~~[(3)]~~ **(4)** Interest earnings of the Fund; and

~~[(4)]~~ **(5)** Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund.

~~(1)~~ **(1)** Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Comptroller shall distribute to an administrative cost account the amount necessary to administer the fees and to cover the expenses of conducting audits under this section from the 9-8-8 fee revenue collected and remitted to the Comptroller under [~~§ 7.5-5A-03.1~~] **§§ 7.5-5A-03.1 AND 7.5-5A-03.2** of this subtitle.”.

On page 7, in line 7, strike “FEES” and substitute “**FEE**”; in line 10, strike “CERTIFIED AS ELIGIBLE FOR” and substitute “**ENROLLED IN**”; and strike beginning with “ESTABLISHED” in line 11 down through “COMMISSION” in line 12.

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On page 8, strike beginning with “**THE**” in line 1 down through “**(G)**” in line 3; in lines 6, 11, and 16, strike “**(H)**”, “**(I)**”, and “**(J)**”, respectively, and substitute “**(G)**”, “**(H)**”, and “**(I)**”, respectively; strike in their entirety lines 25 and 26 and substitute:

“(2) The amount of funds collected and remitted to the Comptroller under § 7.5–5A–03.1 of this subtitle.”;

and in lines 29 and 31, strike “(2)” and “(3)”, respectively, and substitute “(3)” and “(4)”, respectively.

On page 9, in line 1, strike “(4)” and substitute “(5)”; in the same line, strike “(3)” and substitute “(4)”; after line 2, insert:

“SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect July 1, 2027.”;

in line 3, strike “2.” and substitute “4.”; and in the same line, after “That” insert “, except as provided in Section 3 of this Act,”.