

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 284

(Delegate Palakovich Carr)

Ways and Means

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Education - Provision of Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline Telephone Number -
Alteration

This bill alters the name of the crisis hotline that must be provided by a local board of education to each student in grades 6 through 12 from the Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. A local board of education is not required to reprint or reissue school handbooks or student identification cards in use on the effective date of the bill in order to comply with the bill. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only affects local government operations.

Local Effect: Local school system finances are not materially affected as there is no requirement to reprint or reissue school handbooks or student identification cards already in use.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 446 of 2010 requires each local board of education to provide each student in grades 6 through 12 with the telephone number of the Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline by (1) printing the number prominently in the school handbook and (2) printing the telephone number on a student's school identification card, if provided.

Chapter 122 of 1986 established the Youth Suicide Prevention School Program, administered by the Maryland State Department of Education in cooperation with local

school systems and community suicide prevention agencies. One element of the program is the Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline, which began operation in 1990. The Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline is a decentralized hotline answered by four different call centers in Maryland. Youth aged 14 to 24 are able to call 24 hours a day and speak confidentially with a counselor about their problems.

Pursuant to Chapters 145 and 146 of 2022 and the federal National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, the Maryland Department of Health designated 9-8-8 as the State's behavioral health crisis hotline on July 16, 2022. The [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) provides free and confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources, and best practices for professionals. The Acts also established a 9-8-8 Trust Fund to provide reimbursement for costs associated with designating and maintaining 9-8-8 and developing and implementing a statewide initiative for the coordination and delivery of the continuum of behavioral health crisis response services. Chapter 260 of 2023 mandates an annual appropriation of \$12.0 million to the fund beginning in fiscal 2025.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 122 (Senator Augustine) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Maryland State Department of Education; Baltimore City Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Michael E. Sousane

Direct Inquiries to:

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510