

**Senate File 438 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 438

BY WEINER, DONAHUE, DOTZLER,  
WINCKLER, CELSI, TOWNSEND,  
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QUIRMBACH

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the establishment of a 988 emergency service  
2 fund, making an appropriation, and including effective date  
3 provisions.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **34B.1 Definitions.**

2 1. For purposes of this chapter:

3 a. "988 service" means a service which provides the user of  
4 a public telephone system the ability to reach a suicide and  
5 crisis lifeline by dialing or texting the digits 9-8-8, or using  
6 an internet site chat function.

7 b. "Department" means the department of health and human  
8 services.

9 2. A 988 emergency service fund is created in the state  
10 treasury under the control of the department. Moneys in the  
11 fund are appropriated to the department for purposes described in  
12 subsection 4.

13 3. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and each  
14 fiscal year thereafter, there is transferred to the 988 emergency  
15 service fund from the general fund of the state the sum of three  
16 million dollars.

17 4. Moneys in the 988 emergency service fund shall be  
18 distributed by the department to persons operating a 988 service  
19 in this state in the event that federal funding for 988 services  
20 terminates, becomes delayed, or is otherwise impacted in such a  
21 way that 988 service is interrupted in the state.

22 Sec. 2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act, being deemed of immediate  
23 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

24 **EXPLANATION**

25 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
26 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

27 This bill relates to the establishment of a 988 emergency  
28 service fund (988 fund).

29 The bill defines "988 service" as a service which provides the  
30 user of a public telephone system the ability to reach a suicide  
31 and crisis lifeline by dialing or texting the digits 9-8-8, or  
32 using an internet site chat function.

33 The bill creates a 988 fund in the state treasury under the  
34 control of the department of health and human services (HHS).  
35 For FY 2025-2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the bill

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1 transfers \$3 million to the 988 fund from the general fund of  
2 the state. Moneys in the 988 fund are appropriated to HHS for  
3 distribution to persons operating a 988 service in this state  
4 in the event that federal funding for 988 services terminates,  
5 becomes delayed, or is otherwise impacted in such a way that  
6 interrupts 988 service in this state.

7 The bill is effective upon enactment.

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