

HB 2757 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Prepared By: Brian Nieuburt, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: House Committee On Revenue

Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes 9-8-8 Trust Fund for improving the statewide coordinated crisis system, including maintaining and improving 9-8-8 suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis hotline. Imposes 50 cent tax on consumers and retail subscribers who have telecommunications service or interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol service and who have prepaid telecommunications services, to pay for crisis services system. Requires crisis hotline center to have policies and employee training on other racially and ethnically diverse communities and requires that crisis hotline center staff include individuals who reflect the demographics of the communities served. Requires the Oregon Health Authority to establish an advisory committee to provide primary oversight and direction on operation of statewide coordinated crisis system. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposed 9-8-8 as the nationwide, easy-to-remember, 3-digit dialing code for individuals in crisis to connect to suicide prevention and mental health crisis counselors with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. In October 2020, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 was signed into law, incorporating 9-8-8 into statute as the new Lifeline and Veterans Crisis Line phone number. In 2021, the FCC adopted rules requiring phone service and text providers to add the ability to text 9-8-8 by July 2022.

In 2021, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2417 creating the statewide coordinated crisis system consistent with the framework of the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act. The measure appropriated \$15.0 million General Fund to the Oregon Health Authority, with \$5 million to be used for the crisis hotline center and \$10 million to distribute to counties to establish and maintain mobile crisis intervention teams.

House Bill 2757 would create the 9-8-8 Trust Fund and establish continuing funding for improving the statewide coordinated crisis system, including maintaining and improving 9-8-8 suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis hotline.