



Rep. Will Guzzardi

**Filed: 3/14/2023**

10300HB1364ham001

LRB103 24835 AWJ 59103 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1364

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 1364 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the 9-8-8  
5 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Workgroup Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

7 (1) In the summer of 2022, 31% of Illinois adults  
8 experienced symptoms of anxiety or depression more than half  
9 of the days of each week, which is an increase of 20% since  
10 2019.

11 (2) Suicide is the third leading cause of death in  
12 Illinois for young adults who are 15 to 34 years of age, and it  
13 is the 11th leading cause of death for all Illinoisans. In  
14 2021, 1,488 Illinois lives were lost to suicide, and an  
15 estimated 376,000 adults had thoughts of suicide.

16 (3) Historically, people in Illinois and nationwide have

1 had few and fragmented options to call upon during a mental  
2 health crisis and have relied upon 9-1-1 and various privately  
3 funded crisis lines for help.

4 (4) In July 2022, Illinois joined the nation in launching  
5 the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, a universal 3-digit  
6 dialing code for a national suicide prevention and mental  
7 health hotline, meant to offer 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week  
8 access to trained counselors who can help people experiencing  
9 mental health-related distress.

10 (5) Congress delegated to the states significant  
11 decision-making responsibility for structuring and funding the  
12 states' 9-8-8 call center networks.

13 (6) States had limited data on which to base their initial  
14 decisions because the Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
15 Services Administration's projections of future increases in  
16 call volumes varied widely, and there was no national  
17 best-practice model for the number and organization of 9-8-8  
18 call centers.

19 (7) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
20 Administration described the 2022 launch of 9-8-8 as being  
21 just the first step toward reimagining our country's mental  
22 health crisis system and stipulated that long-term  
23 transformation will rely on the willingness of states and  
24 territories to build and invest strategically in every level  
25 of the continuum of mental health crisis care over the next  
26 several years.

1           (8) In 2023, the General Assembly and other State leaders  
2 can assess the first year of operations of the 9-8-8 call  
3 center system, identify legislative solutions to any funding  
4 and programmatic gaps that are emerging, and set the course  
5 for Illinois to eventually lead the country in providing  
6 quality and accessible 9-8-8 care and in connecting  
7 individuals with the mental health resources necessary to  
8 sustain long-term recovery.

9           (9) The launch of the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline  
10 has created a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve  
11 mental health crisis care in Illinois.

12           (10) Illinois' success or failure in building a  
13 high-quality call center network in the initial years will be  
14 an important factor in determining whether 9-8-8 is perceived  
15 as a trusted resource in the State.

16           (11) Illinois' success or failure in building a  
17 high-quality 9-8-8 call center network will disproportionately  
18 affect Black, Brown, and other marginalized residents who are  
19 most likely to rely on crisis services to access mental health  
20 care and are most likely to be criminalized or harmed by the  
21 existing crisis response system.

22           Section 10. Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Workgroup.

23           (a) The Department of Human Services, Division of Mental  
24 Health, shall convene a working group that includes:

25           (1) bicameral, bipartisan members of the General

1 Assembly;

2 (2) at least one representative from the Department of  
3 Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and  
4 Recovery; the Department of Public Health; the Department  
5 of Healthcare and Family Services; and the Department of  
6 Insurance;

7 (3) the State's Chief Behavioral Health Officer;

8 (4) the Director of the Children's Behavioral Health  
9 Transformation Initiative;

10 (5) service providers from the regional and statewide  
11 9-8-8 call centers;

12 (6) representatives of organizations that represent  
13 people with mental health conditions or substance use  
14 disorders;

15 (7) representatives of organizations that operate an  
16 Illinois social services helpline or crisis line other  
17 than 9-8-8, including veterans' crisis services;

18 (8) more than one individual with personal or family  
19 lived experience of a mental health condition or substance  
20 use disorder;

21 (9) experts in research and operational evaluation;  
22 and

23 (10) and any other person or persons as determined by  
24 the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental  
25 Health.

26 (b) On or before December 31, 2023, the Department of

1 Human Services, Division of Mental Health, shall submit a  
2 report to the General Assembly regarding the Workgroup's  
3 findings under Section 15 related to the 9-8-8 call system.

4 Section 15. Responsibilities; action plan.

5 (a) The Workforce has the following responsibilities:

6 (1) to review existing information about the first  
7 year of 9-8-8 call center operations in Illinois,  
8 including, but not limited to, state-level and  
9 county-level use data, progress around the federal  
10 measures of success determined by the Substance Abuse and  
11 Mental Health Services Administration, and research  
12 conducted by any State-contracted partners around cost  
13 projections, best-practice standards, and geographic  
14 needs;

15 (2) to review other states' models and emerging best  
16 practices around structuring 9-8-8 call center networks,  
17 with an emphasis on promoting high-quality phone  
18 interventions, coordination with other crisis lines and  
19 crisis services, and connection to community-based support  
20 for those in need;

21 (3) to review governmental infrastructures created in  
22 other states to promote sustainability and quality in  
23 9-8-8 call centers and crisis system operations;

24 (4) to review changes and new initiatives that have  
25 been advanced by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health

1 Services Administration and Vibrant Emotional Health since  
2 Vibrant transitioned to 9-8-8 in July 2022, such as new  
3 training curricula for call takers and new technology  
4 platforms;

5 (5) to consider input from call center personnel,  
6 providers, and advocates about strengths, weaknesses, and  
7 service gaps in Illinois; and

8 (6) to develop an action plan with recommendations to  
9 the General Assembly that include the following:

10 (A) a future structure for a network of 9-8-8 call  
11 centers in Illinois that will best promote equity,  
12 quality, and connection to care;

13 (B) metrics that Illinois should use to measure  
14 the success of our statewide system in promoting  
15 equity, quality, and connection to care and a system  
16 to measure those metrics, considering the metrics  
17 imposed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
18 Services Administration as only a starting point for  
19 measurement of success in Illinois;

20 (C) recommendations to further fund and strengthen  
21 the rest of Illinois' behavioral health services and  
22 crisis assistance programs based on lessons learned  
23 from 9-8-8 use; and

24 (D) recommendations on a long-term governmental  
25 infrastructure to provide advice and recommendations  
26 necessary to sustainably implement and monitor the

1 progress of the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in  
2 Illinois and to make recommendations for the statewide  
3 improvement of behavioral health crisis response and  
4 suicide prevention services in the State.

5 The action plan shall be approved by a majority of  
6 Workgroup members.

7 (b) Nothing in the action plan filed under this Section  
8 shall be construed to supersede the recommendations of the  
9 Statewide Advisory Committee or Regional Advisory Committees  
10 created by the Community Emergency Services and Support Act.

11 Section 20. Repeal. This Act is repealed on January 1,  
12 2025.

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
14 becoming law."