



FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 389

Committee: Ways and Means General Fund Sponsor: Representative Rex Reynolds

Analyst: Tiffany Weaver Date: 05/08/2023

House Bill 389 as introduced would increase receipts to the non-reverting Alabama 988 Crisis Care Fund, created by this bill in the State Treasury to be managed by the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH), by an estimated \$69 million annually by levying a \$0.98 monthly surcharge on certain communication services, as well as a similar surcharge on certain prepaid retail transactions, beginning October 1, 2024. This bill provides that this surcharge could be adjusted by the 988 Study Commission to an amount no more than \$3 and no less than \$0.98.

This bill would increase the administrative obligations of the Department of Revenue (ADOR) to collect these surcharges; however, these obligations would be offset, in whole or in part, by the deduction of up to 2% of the amount of surcharges collected that would be retained by ADOR, in an amount agreed upon by ADMH and ADOR. This bill would also provide for up to 2% of surcharges collected to be paid from the fund monthly to reimburse certain communication services providers for the cost of collecting and remitting the surcharge.

This bill would provide for monies in this fund to be used by ADMH to fund 988 related services and to develop, coordinate, and administer Alabama's Crisis System of Care, including 988 call centers, mobile crisis services, and crisis centers.

Further, this bill would create the 14-member Study Commission on the 988 Comprehensive Behavioral Health Crisis Communication System to study the impact of the Crisis System of Care and to provide oversight to the fund, which will increase the obligations of, presumably, the 988 Crisis Care Fund by an estimated \$2,500 for travel and per diem expenses for each meeting held.