

1 HJR48  
2 217252-1  
3 By Representatives Simpson, Ledbetter, Daniels and Rafferty  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 08-FEB-22

8 EXTENDING THE DATE FOR REPORTING AND DISSOLUTION OF  
9 THE STUDY COMMISSION ON THE 9-8-8 COMPREHENSIVE BEHAVIORAL  
10 HEALTH CRISIS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM.

11  
12 WHEREAS, the 9-8-8 Comprehensive Behavioral Health  
13 Crisis Communication System was created by the Legislature  
14 during the 2021 Regular Session through the enactment of Act  
15 2021-359, to study and provide recommendations for  
16 implementation of the 9-8-8 system to enhance and expand  
17 behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention  
18 services before the new three-digit 9-8-8 crisis line is  
19 nationally implemented on July 16, 2022, as required by the  
20 National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 (Public Law:  
21 116-172); and

22 WHEREAS, the study commission was hereafter known as  
23 the 9-8-8 Study Commission and its membership organized and  
24 met pursuant to Act 2021-359; and

25 WHEREAS, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental  
26 Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 9-8-8 Appropriations  
27 Report was delayed by a year following the passage of the

1                   National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, and was not  
2                   made available to the state for use by the 9-8-8 Study  
3                   Commission until December 2021; and

4                   WHEREAS, the 9-8-8 Study Commission submitted a  
5                   report of its findings and recommendations to the Alabama  
6                   Legislature on January 11, 2022, recognizing that additional  
7                   data is needed to justify any expenditures and that time is  
8                   needed to design the technology infrastructure that will  
9                   support a comprehensive communication system, thus  
10                   necessitating an extension of the 9-8-8 Study Commission; now  
11                   therefore,

12                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
13                   HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the 9-8-8 Study Commission,  
14                   created in Act 2021-359, is extended through the last  
15                   legislative day of the 2023 Regular Session to continue its  
16                   work to ensure that all Alabamians receive consistent and  
17                   effective behavioral health crisis services no matter where  
18                   they live, work, or travel in the state, and to make  
19                   recommendations to the Legislature to address this important  
20                   initiative.

21                   (a) The 9-8-8 Study Commission shall continue its  
22                   work and maintain its membership, as described in Act  
23                   2021-359, to consider all of the following:

24                   (1)           How twenty-four seven statewide coverage  
25                   for 9-8-8 calls, chats, and texts will be achieved in each  
26                   county.

(2) Strategies for identifying and supporting investment in new technology to triage calls and link individuals to follow-up care.

(3) Funding to boost the financial stability and sustainability of call centers and evidence-based crisis services in every county, so that people experiencing behavioral health crises can receive higher quality support.

(4) Increasing of capacity at the call centers answering 9-8-8 contacts, for long-term improvement of answer rates for 9-8-8 calls.

(5) Requirements for compliance with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Requirements and Best Practices Guidelines for Operational and Clinical Standards.

(6) Ways for call centers to maintain local resource and referral listings and ensure linkages to local community crisis services.

(7) Ways for centers to provide follow-up services to 9-8-8 callers, texters, and chatters based on Lifeline best practices and guidelines.

(8) Requirements for compliance with the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 and the Federal Communications Commission's rules adopted July 16, 2020 to assure that all Alabama residents receive an effective level of 9-8-8 and crisis behavioral health services no matter where they live, work, or travel in the state.

(b) The 9-8-8 Study Commission shall present a report of its findings, which shall include its

1 recommendations for legislation, if any, to the Legislature on  
2 or before the final legislative day of the 2023 Regular  
3 Session, at which time it shall stand dissolved.