

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

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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 9-8-8 Appropriations
Report was delayed by a year following the passage of the
National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, and was not
made available to the state for use by the 9-8-8 Study
Commission until December 2021; and

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

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

18 (a) The 9-8-8 Study Commission shall continue its
19 work and maintain its membership, as described in Act
20 2021-359, to consider all of the following:

21 (1) How twenty-four seven statewide coverage for
22 9-8-8 calls, chats, and texts will be achieved in each county.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (b) The 9-8-8 Study Commission shall present a
24 report of its findings, which shall include its
25 recommendations for legislation, if any, to the Legislature on

1 or before the final legislative day of the 2023 Regular
2 Session, at which time it shall stand dissolved.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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House of Representatives

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I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was adopted by the House 16-FEB-22.

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Jeff Woodard
Clerk

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Senate

06-APR-22

Adopted

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