

**HOUSE BILL No. 2611**

By Committee on Health and Human Services

2-2

1 AN ACT directing the secretary of health and environment to review the  
2 behavioral health and addiction crisis response in Kansas and report  
3 any findings and recommendations to a joint meeting of the standing  
4 committee on health and human services of the house and the senate  
5 standing committee on public health and welfare.  
6

7 WHEREAS, There are people in Kansas communities who are  
8 experiencing mental health or substance abuse crises who need  
9 professional crisis care or urgent psychiatric care from skilled mental  
10 health clinicians and medical professionals who excel at providing  
11 compassionate crisis intervention and stabilization; and

12 WHEREAS, A coordinated crisis response system provides for early  
13 intervention and effective treatment of persons in mental health or  
14 substance abuse crisis; and

15 WHEREAS, A coordinated crisis response system should be available  
16 in all communities statewide.

17 Now, therefore:

18 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

19 Section 1. (a) The secretary of health and environment shall review  
20 the current behavioral health and addiction crisis response in Kansas and  
21 shall formulate a plan analyzing and making recommendations for the  
22 improvement of a coordinated crisis response in the state. The plan shall  
23 include recommendations concerning the establishment of a centrally  
24 located 24-hour state-wide telephone hotline that implements a warm  
25 hand-off based on the 911 models, shall use a regional model to make  
26 recommendations as to the appropriate geographic coordination of  
27 behavioral health and addiction crisis response in Kansas and shall include  
28 an analysis of the best use of existing resources, including, but not limited to,  
29 emergency medical services, crisis intervention centers, behavioral  
30 health professionals, mental health professionals, mental health centers,  
31 crisis intervention-trained law enforcement officers, governmental  
32 behavioral crisis intervention services, medical care facilities and other  
33 entities and individuals impacting behavioral health and addiction crisis  
34 response. In developing the plan, the secretary shall consult with  
35 representatives of behavioral health and addiction crisis response entities,  
36 individuals engaged in behavioral health and addiction crisis response and

1 such other entities or individuals as the secretary deems appropriate. The  
2 secretary shall complete the review, formulate the plan, and prepare the  
3 report required in subsection (b) within existing appropriations and shall  
4 design any plan developed by the secretary to be implemented within  
5 existing appropriations.

6 (b) On or before January 30, 2019, the secretary of health and  
7 environment shall present to a joint meeting of the standing committee on  
8 health and human services of the house and the senate standing committee  
9 on public health and welfare, a report of the secretary's findings and  
10 recommendations concerning coordinated behavioral health and addiction  
11 crisis response in Kansas. The report, at a minimum, shall include the plan  
12 prepared pursuant to subsection (a).

13 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
14 publication in the statute book.