



S.L.C.

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish a multi-stakeholder advisory committee tasked with providing detailed recommendations to address challenges to transmitting geolocation information with calls to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To establish a multi-stakeholder advisory committee tasked with providing detailed recommendations to address challenges to transmitting geolocation information with calls to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “988 Lifeline Location  
5 Improvement Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1           (1) 911 SYSTEM SERVICE PROVIDER.—The  
2 term “911 system service provider” has the meaning  
3 given the term “covered 911 service provider” in  
4 section 9.19(a)(4)(i) of title 47, Code of Federal  
5 Regulations, or any successor regulation.

6           (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
7 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
8 gress” means—

9                   (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
10 and Transportation of the Senate;

11                   (B) the Committee on Health, Education,  
12 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

13                   (C) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
14 merce of the House of Representatives.

15           (3) COMMITTEE.—The term “committee”  
16 means the advisory committee established under sec-  
17 tion 3.

18           (4) COMMUNITY BASED MENTAL HEALTH ORGA-  
19 NIZATION.—The term “community based mental  
20 health organization” means an organization that  
21 serves individuals with mental health conditions and  
22 the families of those individuals in a community set-  
23 ting.

24           (5) DISPATCHABLE LOCATION.—The term  
25 “dispatchable location” has the meaning given that

1 term in section 9.3 of title 47, Code of Federal Reg-  
2 ulations, or any successor regulation.

3 (6) HANDSET MANUFACTURER.—The term  
4 “handset manufacturer” means a manufacturer of  
5 cellular phones.

6 (7) LOCAL CRISIS CENTER.—The term “local  
7 crisis center” means a call center intended to receive  
8 calls from the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and  
9 the Veterans Crisis Line.

10 (8) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “local  
11 government” means the government of any political  
12 subdivision of a State.

13 (9) LOW POPULATION STATE.—The term “low  
14 population State” means a State that has no urban-  
15 ized areas with a population greater than 250,000,  
16 as reported in the decennial census.

17 (10) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ORGANIZA-  
18 TION.—The term “mental health services organiza-  
19 tion” means an organization or association that rep-  
20 resents providers of mental health crisis services or  
21 crisis respite services.

22 (11) PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT.—The  
23 term “public safety answering point” has the mean-  
24 ing given that term in section 9.3 of title 47, Code  
25 of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

1           (12) TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PRO-  
2           VIDER.—The term “telecommunications service pro-  
3           vider” has the meaning given that term in section  
4           52.5(e) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or  
5           any successor regulation.

6           (13) SMALL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES.—The  
7           term “small and rural communities” means a  
8           noncore area, a micropolitan area, or a small metro-  
9           politan statistical area with a population of not more  
10          than 250,000, as reported in the decennial census.

11          (14) STATE.—The term “State” means any of  
12          the several States of the United States, the District  
13          of Columbia, and any territory or possession of the  
14          United States.

15 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.**

16          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
17          the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Commu-  
18          nications Commission, in coordination with the Secretary  
19          of Health and Human Services, shall establish an advisory  
20          committee to provide recommendations to address chal-  
21          lenges to transmitting geolocation information with calls  
22          to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

23          (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

24                  (1) COMPOSITION.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The committee shall be  
2 composed of 14 members, to be appointed in  
3 accordance with subparagraphs (B) and (C).

4 (B) APPOINTMENTS BY FEDERAL COMMU-  
5 NICATIONS COMMISSION.—Of the 14 members  
6 of the committee appointed under this para-  
7 graph, the Federal Communications Commis-  
8 sion shall appoint—

9 (i) 1 member from a telecommuni-  
10 cations service provider or an organization  
11 that represents telecommunications service  
12 providers;

13 (ii) 1 member from a handset manu-  
14 facturer or an organization that represents  
15 handset manufacturers;

16 (iii) 1 member from a public safety  
17 answering point or an organization that  
18 represents public safety answering points;

19 (iv) 1 member from a 911 system  
20 service provider or an organization that  
21 represents 911 system service providers;

22 (v) 2 members from a State govern-  
23 ment, with at least 1 member representing  
24 a low population State; and

1 (vi) 2 members from a local govern-  
2 ment, with at least 1 member representing  
3 small and rural communities.

4 (C) APPOINTMENTS BY THE SECRETARY  
5 OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—Of the 14  
6 members of the committee appointed under this  
7 paragraph, the Secretary of Health and Human  
8 Services shall appoint—

9 (i) 1 member from the 988 Suicide  
10 and Crisis Lifeline;

11 (ii) 1 member from a local crisis cen-  
12 ter or an organization that represents local  
13 crisis centers;

14 (iii) 1 member from the Veterans Cri-  
15 sis Line;

16 (iv) 1 member from the Substance  
17 Abuse and Mental Health Services Admin-  
18 istration;

19 (v) 1 member from a mental health  
20 services organization; and

21 (vi) 1 member from a community  
22 based mental health organization.

23 (2) DATE.—The appointments of the members  
24 of the committee shall be made not later than 30  
25 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (c) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the committee  
3 shall be appointed for the life of the committee.

4 (2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the committee—

5 (A) shall not affect the powers of the com-  
6 mittee; and

7 (B) shall be filled in the same manner as  
8 the original appointment.

9 (d) MEETINGS.—

10 (1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days  
11 after the date on which all members of the com-  
12 mittee have been appointed, the committee shall hold  
13 the first meeting of the committee.

14 (2) FREQUENCY.—The committee shall meet at  
15 the call of the Chairperson.

16 (3) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of  
17 the committee shall constitute a quorum, but a less-  
18 er number of members may hold hearings.

19 (e) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The  
20 committee shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson  
21 from among the members of the committee.

22 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF COMMITTEE.**

23 (a) STUDY.—The committee shall conduct a study  
24 on—

1           (1) policy considerations regarding consumer  
2           privacy and legal authority with respect to man-  
3           dating transmission of location information, includ-  
4           ing dispatchable location information, with calls to  
5           the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline;

6           (2) technical implementation standards for serv-  
7           ice providers, 911 system service providers, public  
8           safety answering points, and local crisis centers; and

9           (3) potential recovery of costs or additional  
10          funding requirements for service providers, the 988  
11          Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, the Veterans Crisis Line,  
12          and local crisis centers.

13          (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Based on the results of  
14          the study conducted under subsection (a), the committee  
15          shall develop recommendations on potential legislation  
16          that would address challenges relating to the inclusion of  
17          location information, including dispatchable location infor-  
18          mation, with calls to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

19          (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
20          of enactment of this Act, the committee shall submit to  
21          appropriate committees of Congress and the Federal Com-  
22          munications Commission a report that contains a detailed  
23          statement of the findings and conclusions of the com-  
24          mittee, together with the recommendations of the com-



1 mittee for such legislation and administrative actions as  
2 the committee considers appropriate.

3 **SEC. 5. POWERS OF COMMITTEE.**

4 (a) HEARINGS.—The committee may hold such hear-  
5 ings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testi-  
6 mony, and receive such evidence as the committee con-  
7 siders advisable to carry out this Act.

8 (b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The committee may secure  
10 directly from a Federal department or agency such  
11 information as the committee considers necessary to  
12 carry out this Act.

13 (2) FURNISHING INFORMATION.—On request of  
14 the Chairperson of the committee, the head of the  
15 department or agency shall furnish the information  
16 to the committee.

17 (c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The committee may use the  
18 United States mails in the same manner and under the  
19 same conditions as other departments and agencies of the  
20 Federal Government.

21 (d) GIFTS.—The committee may accept, use, and dis-  
22 pose of gifts or donations of services or property.

23 **SEC. 6. COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

24 (a) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the com-  
25 mittee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem

1 in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees  
2 of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,  
3 United States Code, while away from their homes or reg-  
4 ular places of business in the performance of services for  
5 the committee.

6 (b) STAFF.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the com-  
8 mittee may, without regard to the civil service laws  
9 (including regulations), appoint and terminate an ex-  
10 ecutive director and such other additional personnel  
11 as may be necessary to enable the committee to per-  
12 form its duties, except that the employment of an  
13 executive director shall be subject to confirmation by  
14 the committee.

15 (2) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of the  
16 committee may fix the compensation of the executive  
17 director and other personnel without regard to chap-  
18 ter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5,  
19 United States Code, relating to classification of posi-  
20 tions and General Schedule pay rates, except that  
21 the rate of pay for the executive director and other  
22 personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level  
23 V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of  
24 that title.

1 (c) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—A Fed-  
2 eral Government employee may be detailed to the com-  
3 mittee without reimbursement, and such detail shall be  
4 without interruption or loss of civil service status or privi-  
5 lege.

6 (d) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-  
7 TENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the committee may  
8 procure temporary and intermittent services under section  
9 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individ-  
10 uals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual  
11 rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive  
12 Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

13 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION OF COMMITTEE.**

14 The committee shall terminate 30 days after the date  
15 on which the committee submits the report required under  
16 section 4(e) of this Act.

17 **SEC. 8. FUNDING.**

18 This Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise  
19 appropriated, and no additional amounts are authorized  
20 to be appropriated to carry out this Act.