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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

**RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND
HOSPITALS -- COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Introduced By: Senators Cano, Seveney, Lawson, DiPalma, Quezada, Acosta, Kallman,
Burke, Valverde, and Zurier

Date Introduced: March 01, 2022

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 40.1-8.5 of the General Laws entitled "Community Mental Health
2 Services" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **40.1-8.5-8. Suicide prevention and mental health crisis 9-8-8 hotline.**

4 The sum of one million eight hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$1,875,000) of federal
5 funds contained in the state fiscal recovery fund shall be appropriated for the creation of a 9-8-8
6 hotline to maintain compliance with the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 and the
7 Federal Communications Commission-adopted rules to assure that all citizens receive a consistent
8 level of 9-8-8 and crisis behavioral health services.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND
HOSPITALS -- COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1 This act would appropriate one million eight hundred seventy-five thousand dollars
2 (\$1,875,000) for the creation of a 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline within
3 the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals (BHDDH).

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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