



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**SB 900**

**DATE: March 4, 2025**

**SPONSOR: Senator Augustine**

**ASSIGNED TO: Finance**

**CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey**

**(leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS (Department of Health and Human Services)**

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### **Maryland Behavioral Health Crisis Response System - Integration of 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Network and Outcome Evaluations**

Senate Bill 900 requires each crisis communication center in the State Crisis Response System to coordinate with the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline to provide the full ranges of services provided by the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline. The bill enumerates the factors to be considered in outcome evaluations for each communication center including 988 local answer rate, call, text, and chat volume, and resolution data; mobile crisis team dispatch volume, response time, and resolution data; and crisis stabilization center usage and discharge data.

Montgomery County has a longstanding crisis intervention program comprised of a 24-hour crisis center, mobile crisis teams, and a 988 call center with call, chat and text capability, among other services that work cooperatively and collaboratively. This programming predates the State's Crisis Response System and has a proven track record of delivering critical services to County residents in times of crisis. Because of this history, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human services respectfully requests an amendment to Senate Bill 900 to reflect that our communication center provides a coordinated point of entry to our crisis intervention system, but it is not the single point of entry.

Additionally, Senate Bill 900 amends current statutory language requiring an annual report of the outcome evaluations required under the bill to require the report be submitted on or before December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Because the bill goes into effect on July 1, 2025, this would mean the first report under the bill would be due after only four months of implementing the bill's outcome evaluations.

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services respectfully requests that the bill be amended to delay the first annual report under the bill until December 1, 2026, so that implementation of the bill's requirements can be fully realized. We urge the committee to issue a favorable report with the amendments on the following page to Senate Bill 900.

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 900  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 21, strike “single” and insert “**COORDINATED.**”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, in line 25, after “year” insert “, **BEGINNING IN 2026.**”.