



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 900

DATE: March 26, 2025

SPONSOR: Senator Augustine

ASSIGNED TO: Health and Government Operations

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

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

Senate Bill 900 requires the Maryland Behavioral Health Crisis Response System to have a 988 suicide and crisis lifeline in each jurisdiction within the State that coordinates with the national 988 suicide and crisis lifeline to provide the full range of services offered, including: supportive counseling; suicide prevention; crisis intervention; and direct dispatch or a warm handoff to mobile crisis response and stabilization services. The bill enumerates the factors to be considered in outcome evaluations for each communication center including the 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. We urge the committee to issue a favorable report with the amendment on the following page to Senate Bill 900.

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 900
(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

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