

NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2017

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 256, S. 1015.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1015) to require the Federal Communications Commission to study the feasibility of designating a simple, easy-to-remember dialing code to be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission;

(2) the term “covered dialing code” means a simple, easy-to-remember, 3-digit dialing code; and

(3) the term “N11 dialing code” means an abbreviated dialing code consisting of 3 digits, of which—

(A) the first digit may be any digit other than “1” or “0”; and

(B) each of the last 2 digits is “1”.

SEC. 3. STUDIES AND REPORTS.

(a) PRIMARY STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall conduct a study that—

(A) examines the feasibility of designating an N11 dialing code or other covered dialing code to be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system; and

(B) analyzes the effectiveness of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline as of the date on which the study is initiated, including how well the lifeline is working to address the needs of veterans.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) COMMISSION.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

(i) consider—

(I) each of the N11 dialing codes, including the codes that are used for other purposes; and

(II) other covered dialing codes;

(ii) consult with the North American Numbering Council; and

(iii) review the information provided by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively, of this paragraph.

(B) SAMHSA STUDY AND REPORT TO ASSIST COMMISSION.—To assist the Commission in conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use shall analyze and, not later than 180

days after the date of enactment of this Act, report to the Commission on—

(i) the potential impact of the designation of an N11 dialing code, or other covered dialing code, for a suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system on—

(I) suicide prevention;

(II) crisis services; and

(III) other suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotlines, including—

(aa) the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline; and

(bb) the Veterans Crisis Line; and

(ii) possible recommendations for improving the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline generally, which may include—

(I) increased public education and awareness; and

(II) improved infrastructure and operations.

(C) VA STUDY AND REPORT TO ASSIST COMMISSION.—To assist the Commission in conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall study and, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, report to the Commission on how well the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Veterans Crisis Line, as in effect on the date on which the study is initiated, is working to address the needs of veterans.

(b) PRIMARY COMMISSION REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall submit a report on the study conducted under subsection (a) that recommends whether a particular N11 dialing code or other covered dialing code should be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system to—

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

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

(C) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) ADDITIONAL CONTENTS.—If the report submitted by the Commission under paragraph (1) recommends that a dialing code should be used, the report shall also—

(A) outline the logistics of designating such a dialing code;

(B) estimate the costs associated with designating such a dialing code, including—

(i) the costs incurred by service providers, including—

(I) translation changes in the network; and

(II) cell site analysis and reprogramming by wireless carriers; and

(ii) the costs incurred by States and localities;

(C) provide recommendations for designating such a dialing code;

(D) provide a cost-benefit analysis comparing the recommended dialing code with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, as in effect on the date on which the report is submitted; and

(E) make other recommendations, as appropriate, for improving the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline generally, which may include—

(i) increased public education and awareness; and

(ii) improved infrastructure and operations.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the com-

mittee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1015), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 8; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Robb nomination postcloture; finally, that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the Robb nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:24 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 7, 2017:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

STEVEN ANDREW ENGEL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOHN H. GIBSON II, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DAVID J. REDL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION.