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**HOUSE BILL 1600**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Abbarno, J. Johnson, Dent, Orwall, Berry, Eslick, Valdez, Callan, Davis, Peterson, Santos, Simmons, Wylie, Griffey, and Frame

Prefiled 12/06/21. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on Capital Budget.

1 AN ACT Relating to installation of signs displaying the 988  
2 crisis services hotline; adding a new section to chapter 39.04 RCW;  
3 creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the number 988  
6 as the universal telephone number within the United States to connect  
7 to the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline  
8 system. The legislature has taken steps in accordance with the  
9 national suicide hotline designation act of 2020 to improve acute  
10 mental health crisis outreach and stabilization services within  
11 Washington state. By July 1, 2024, the department of health must have  
12 in place the network of providers and have all of the new systems  
13 operational for when people located in Washington dial 988 for  
14 services.

15 This act provides for deployment of signs announcing the 988  
16 hotline as part of new construction and replacement of public  
17 facilities with the intent to place the hotline information in  
18 locations that will be seen by people who are likely to use the  
19 hotline's services.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 39.04  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) (a) For any building, bridge, ferry, or park being constructed  
4    or replaced after July 1, 2024, as a public works project, there must  
5    be installed in appropriate locations signs displaying the 988  
6    national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline.

7        (b) The public body as defined in RCW 39.10.210 in control of a  
8    public works project in this subsection must decide where signs under  
9    this section would be physically feasible and appropriate. The  
10   following facilities are recommended to have such signs:

11        (i) Bridges where suicides by jumping have occurred or are likely  
12   to occur; and

13        (ii) Locations that provide services to people that have high  
14   incidence of suicide or mental health conditions that would benefit  
15   from knowing about the hotline.

16        (c) The signs must be designed to communicate that dialing 988 on  
17   a telephone will connect callers to mental health and suicide  
18   prevention services as provided in accordance with state and federal  
19   laws governing the 988 number.

20        (d) If a sign is located along a state highway or the interstate  
21   system, the department of transportation must approve the location  
22   prior to erecting the sign, but no permit is necessary.

23        (e) Signs created under this section may not conflict with  
24   provisions of the manual of uniform traffic control devices or  
25   existing state laws related to placement and design of signs.

26        (2) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed as  
27   conferring a right of action in cases where no right of action exists  
28   independent of this section. This section is not intended to create a  
29   private right of action by any party or be used to impose liability  
30   on the public body if a sign has or has not been posted on the  
31   premises of the public facility or in any particular location  
32   recommended in this section.

33        (3) The public body may accept gifts or donations to pay for the  
34   creation, installation, or maintenance of signs under this section.

35        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    This act takes effect July 1, 2024.

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