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**SENATE BILL 5762**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Orwall, Dhingra, Nobles, and C. Wilson

Read first time 02/18/25. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the statewide 988 behavioral health  
2 crisis response and suicide prevention line tax; amending RCW  
3 82.86.020 and 82.86.050; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the state has  
6 made significant progress in establishing and implementing the 988  
7 suicide and crisis lifeline, creating greater access to crisis  
8 services for individuals and their families in need. The legislature  
9 further finds that an improved crisis response system reduces  
10 reliance on emergency room services and the use of law enforcement  
11 response to behavioral health crises and helps to stabilize  
12 individuals in the community whenever possible. To accomplish  
13 effective crisis response and suicide prevention, Washington state  
14 must continue its integrated approach to address mental health and  
15 substance use disorder and continue its progress toward implementing  
16 the 988 suicide and crisis lifelines and crisis systems in the  
17 country. The legislature finds it is critical to provide funding to  
18 enable greater access to crisis care services and supports.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.86.020 and 2021 c 302 s 202 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

1 (1) (a) A statewide 988 behavioral health crisis response and  
2 suicide prevention line tax is imposed on the use of all radio access  
3 lines:

4 (i) By subscribers whose place of primary use is located within  
5 the state in the amount set forth in (a)(ii) of this subsection (1)  
6 per month for each radio access line. The tax must be uniform for  
7 each radio access line under this subsection (1); and

8 (ii) By consumers whose retail transaction occurs within the  
9 state in the amount set forth in this subsection (1)(a)(ii) per  
10 retail transaction. The amount of tax must be uniform for each retail  
11 transaction under this subsection (1) and is as follows:

12 (A) Beginning October 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022, the tax  
13 rate is 24 cents for each radio access line; ~~((and))~~

14 (B) Beginning January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, the tax  
15 rate is 40 cents for each radio access line;

16 (C) Beginning July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, the tax rate  
17 is 60 cents for each radio access line; and

18 (D) Beginning July 1, 2027, the tax rate is 80 cents for each  
19 radio access line.

20 (b) The tax imposed under this subsection (1) must be remitted to  
21 the department by radio communications service companies, including  
22 those companies that resell radio access lines, and sellers of  
23 prepaid wireless telecommunications service, on a tax return provided  
24 by the department. Tax proceeds must be deposited by the treasurer  
25 into the statewide 988 behavioral health crisis response and suicide  
26 prevention line account created in RCW 82.86.050.

27 (c) For the purposes of this subsection (1), the retail  
28 transaction is deemed to occur at the location where the transaction  
29 is sourced under RCW 82.32.520(3)(c).

30 (2) A statewide 988 behavioral health crisis response and suicide  
31 prevention line tax is imposed on all interconnected voice over  
32 internet protocol service lines in the state. The amount of tax must  
33 be uniform for each line and must be levied on no more than the  
34 number of voice over internet protocol service lines on an account  
35 that is capable of simultaneous unrestricted outward calling to the  
36 public switched telephone network. The tax imposed under this  
37 subsection (2) must be remitted to the department by interconnected  
38 voice over internet protocol service companies on a tax return  
39 provided by the department. The amount of tax for each interconnected

1 voice over internet protocol service line whose place of primary use  
2 is located in the state is as follows:

3 (a) Beginning October 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022, the tax  
4 rate is 24 cents for an interconnected voice over internet protocol  
5 service line; (~~and~~)

6 (b) Beginning January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, the tax  
7 rate is 40 cents for an interconnected voice over internet protocol  
8 service line;

9 (c) Beginning July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, the tax rate  
10 is 60 cents for an interconnected voice over internet protocol  
11 service line; and

12 (d) Beginning July 1, 2027, the tax rate is 80 cents for an  
13 interconnected voice over internet protocol service line.

14 (3) A statewide 988 behavioral health crisis response and suicide  
15 prevention line tax is imposed on all switched access lines in the  
16 state. The amount of tax must be uniform for each line and must be  
17 levied on no more than the number of switched access lines on an  
18 account that is capable of simultaneous unrestricted outward calling  
19 to the public switched telephone network. The tax imposed under this  
20 subsection (3) must be remitted to the department by local exchange  
21 companies on a tax return provided by the department. The amount of  
22 tax for each switched access line whose place of primary use is  
23 located in the state is as follows:

24 (a) Beginning October 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022, the tax  
25 rate is 24 cents for each switched access line; (~~and~~)

26 (b) Beginning January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, the tax  
27 rate is 40 cents for each switched access line;

28 (c) Beginning July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, the tax rate  
29 is 60 cents for each switched access line; and

30 (d) Beginning July 1, 2027, the tax rate is 80 cents for each  
31 switched access line.

32 (4) Tax proceeds collected pursuant to this section must be  
33 deposited by the treasurer into the statewide 988 behavioral health  
34 crisis response and suicide prevention line account created in RCW  
35 82.86.050.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 82.86.050 and 2023 c 454 s 10 are each amended to  
37 read as follows:

38 (1) The statewide 988 behavioral health crisis response and  
39 suicide prevention line account is created in the state treasury. All

1 receipts from the statewide 988 behavioral health crisis response and  
2 suicide prevention line tax imposed pursuant to this chapter must be  
3 deposited into the account. Moneys may only be spent after  
4 appropriation.

5 (2) Expenditures from the account may only be used for:

6 (a) Ensuring the efficient and effective routing of calls made to  
7 the 988 crisis hotline to an appropriate crisis hotline center or  
8 designated 988 contact hub. Expenditures from the account must be  
9 prioritized to fully fund the operation of 988 crisis hotline centers  
10 and designated 988 contact hubs to achieve an in-state call response  
11 rate specified in RCW 71.24.890; and

12 (b) Personnel and the provision of acute behavioral health,  
13 crisis outreach, and crisis stabilization services, as defined in RCW  
14 71.24.025, by directly responding to the 988 crisis hotline and  
15 enhancing mobile crisis service standards and performance provided  
16 through mobile rapid response crisis teams and community-based crisis  
17 teams endorsed under RCW 71.24.903. Ten percent of the annual  
18 receipts from the tax must be dedicated to the establishment grants,  
19 performance payments, and supplemental performance payments for  
20 mobile rapid response crisis teams and community-based crisis teams  
21 endorsed under RCW 71.24.903 and endorsement activities in RCW  
22 71.24.903, up to 30 percent of which is dedicated to mobile rapid  
23 response crisis teams and community-based crisis teams endorsed under  
24 RCW 71.24.903 that are affiliated with a tribe in Washington.

25 (3) Moneys in the account may not be used to supplant general  
26 fund appropriations for behavioral health services or for medicaid  
27 covered services to individuals enrolled in the medicaid program.

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