

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS28573 / S1125

This legislation provides Idahoans a more sustainable method of funding to address mental health crisis care and suicide prevention.

In October 2020, President Trump signed into law the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 that designates 988 as the three-digit number for suicide prevention and mental health crisis needs (U.S. public law No: 116-172.). In July 2022, 988 will go live and replace the current national suicide prevention phone number 800-273-8255. This bill establishes the framework to collect 988 fees, which mirrors 911 emergency funds; designates allowable uses; requires coordination for service implementation; requires annual auditing, reporting, and review of the program; and ensures fee collection does not exceed anticipated need. The fee collection is scheduled to begin January 1, 2022. At the time this legislation is being considered at least 1/3 of all states have drafted and/or introduced comparable legislation, including neighboring states Utah and Montana.

Why it matters: Idaho has the fifth highest suicide rate in the nation per capita and is 65% higher than the national rate. Idaho experienced about 24.5 suicides per 100,000 Idahoans. Further, the Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline received over 14,000 calls, chats, and texts in 2020 and has received an increasing volume of calls since launching its 24/7 service in 2014. Call volume and service needs are expected to increase significantly with 988 (regardless of passage of this bill). This fee will help divert future needs for General Fund support.

### FISCAL NOTE

The fee of \$1 per phone line assessed each month is estimated to generate about \$20 million per year. These moneys would be restricted for mental health crisis care and suicide prevention, and subject to appropriation.

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**DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).**