



FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 328

Committee: Fiscal Responsibility and
Economic Development

Sponsor: Senator Garlan Gudger

Analyst: Tiffany Weaver

Date: 05/17/2023

Senate Bill 328 as introduced would provide for the levying of a \$0.98 monthly surcharge on certain communication services and on certain prepaid retail transactions, beginning October 1, 2024 and for the deposit of the surcharges into the non-reverting Alabama 988 Crisis Care Fund, created by this bill in the State Treasury to be managed by the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH). Based upon the average number of monthly connections reported, an estimated \$69 million could be deposited into the 988 Crisis Care Fund annually.

This bill would increase the administrative obligations of the Alabama 911 Board to collect the communication services 988 surcharge and the Department of Revenue (ADOR) to collect the prepaid retail surcharges; however, these obligations would be offset, in whole or in part, by the deduction of up to 1% of the amount of surcharges collected that would be retained by the Alabama 911 Board and ADOR. This bill would also provide for up to 1% of surcharges collected by voice communication providers to be deducted by the provider for cost of collecting and remitting the surcharge.

This bill would provide for monies in this fund to be used by ADMH to fund 988 related services and to develop, coordinate, and administer Alabama's Crisis System of Care, including 988 call centers, mobile crisis services, and crisis centers.

Further, this bill would create the 19-member 988 Commission to study the impact of the Crisis System of Care and to provide oversight to the fund, which will increase the obligations of, presumably, the 988 Crisis Care Fund by an estimated \$3,300 for travel and per diem expenses for each meeting held. This bill would also provide for the termination of the Commission on October 1, 2027, unless extended by an act of the Legislature.