

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 2345, with An Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2345

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2017

Mr. STEWART (for himself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

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.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Suicide Hot-
5 line Improvement Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act—

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

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

7 (3) the term “N11 dialing code” means an ab-
8 breviated dialing code consisting of 3 digits, of
9 which—

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

12 (B) each of the last 2 digits is “1”.

13 **SEC. 3. STUDIES AND REPORTS.**

14 (a) PRIMARY STUDY.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, in coordi-
16 nation with the Assistant Secretary for Mental
17 Health and Substance Use and the Secretary of Vet-
18 erans Affairs, shall conduct a study that—

19 (A) examines the feasibility of designating
20 an N11 dialing code or other covered dialing
21 code to be used for a national suicide preven-
22 tion and mental health crisis hotline system;
23 and

24 (B) analyzes the effectiveness of the Na-
25 tional Suicide Prevention Lifeline as of the date
26 on which the study is initiated, including how

1 well the lifeline is working to address the needs
2 of veterans.

3 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

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

7 (i) consider—

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

11 (II) other covered dialing codes;

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

14 (iii) review the information provided
15 by the Assistant Secretary for Mental
16 Health and Substance Use and the Sec-
17 retary of Veterans Affairs under subpara-
18 graphs (B) and (C), respectively, of this
19 paragraph.

20 (B) SAMHSA STUDY AND REPORT TO AS-
21 SIST COMMISSION.—To assist the Commission
22 in conducting the study under paragraph (1),
23 the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and
24 Substance Use shall analyze and, not later than

1 180 days after the date of enactment of this
2 Act, report to the Commission on—

3 (i) the potential impact of the des-
4 ignation of an N11 dialing code, or other
5 covered dialing code, for a suicide preven-
6 tion and mental health crisis hotline sys-
7 tem on—

8 (I) suicide prevention;

9 (II) crisis services; and

10 (III) other suicide prevention and
11 mental health crisis hotlines, includ-
12 ing—

13 (aa) the National Suicide
14 Prevention Lifeline; and

15 (bb) the Veterans Crisis
16 Line; and

17 (ii) possible recommendations for im-
18 proving the National Suicide Prevention
19 Lifeline generally, which may include—

20 (I) increased public education
21 and awareness; and

22 (II) improved infrastructure and
23 operations.

24 (C) VA STUDY AND REPORT TO ASSIST
25 COMMISSION.—To assist the Commission in

1 conducting the study under paragraph (1), the
2 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall study and,
3 not later than 180 days after the date of enact-
4 ment of this Act, report to the Commission on
5 how well the National Suicide Prevention Life-
6 line and the Veterans Crisis Line, as in effect
7 on the date on which the study is initiated, is
8 working to address the needs of veterans.

9 (b) PRIMARY COMMISSION REPORT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission,
12 in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for
13 Mental Health and Substance Use and the Secretary
14 of Veterans Affairs, shall submit a report on the
15 study conducted under subsection (a) that rec-
16 ommends whether a particular N11 dialing code or
17 other covered dialing code should be used for a na-
18 tional suicide prevention and mental health crisis
19 hotline system to—

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

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

24 (C) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of
25 the Senate;

1 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
2 merce of the House of Representatives; and

3 (E) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of
4 the House of Representatives.

5 (2) ADDITIONAL CONTENTS.—If the report sub-
6 mitted by the Commission under paragraph (1) rec-
7 ommends that a dialing code should be used, the re-
8 port shall also—

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

11 (B) estimate the costs associated with des-
12 ignating such a dialing code, including—

13 (i) the costs incurred by service pro-
14 viders, including—

15 (I) translation changes in the
16 network; and

17 (II) cell site analysis and re-
18 programming by wireless carriers; and

19 (ii) the costs incurred by States and
20 localities;

21 (C) provide recommendations for desig-
22 nating such a dialing code;

23 (D) provide a cost-benefit analysis com-
24 paring the recommended dialing code with the
25 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, as in ef-

1 fect on the date on which the report is sub-
2 mitted; and

3 (E) make other recommendations, as ap-
4 propriate, for improving the National Suicide
5 Prevention Lifeline generally, which may in-
6 clude—

7 (i) increased public education and
8 awareness; and

9 (ii) improved infrastructure and oper-
10 ations.

11 **SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

12 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-
13 priated to carry out this Act. This Act shall be carried
14 out using amounts otherwise authorized.