

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: H3/9/17
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1775

5 By: Representatives Johnson, Lemons, Drown, Lundstrum
6 By: Senators J. English, D. Wallace
7

8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO MANDATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
10 ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO MANDATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
16 ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SUICIDE
17 PREVENTION HOTLINE.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 45, Subchapter 3, is
23 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

24 20-45-303. Suicide Prevention Hotline.

25 (a)(1) The Department of Health shall establish and maintain to the
26 extent that funding is available the Suicide Prevention Hotline for the
27 purpose of helping to prevent suicide in the state.

28 (2) The department may contract with vendors to maintain the
29 Suicide Prevention Hotline.

30 (b)(1) The Suicide Prevention Hotline shall be staffed twenty-four
31 (24) hours per day and shall have statewide accessibility through a toll-free
32 telephone number.

33 (2) The toll-free telephone number under this section shall be
34 known as the "Suicide Prevention Hotline".

35 (3)(A) The Suicide Prevention Hotline shall be part of the
36 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network by utilizing existing telephone,



1 text, and online chat communications.

2 (B) The Suicide Prevention Hotline shall meet all
3 accreditation requirements set forth by the United States Substance Abuse and
4 Mental Health Services Administration and the National Suicide Prevention
5 Lifeline.

6 (c) All persons may use the Suicide Prevention Hotline to assist in
7 preventing suicide throughout the state.

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/s/Johnson

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APPROVED: 04/01/2017

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