

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2003

To require the Federal Communications Commission to designate a 3-digit dialing code for veterans in crisis.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 27, 2019

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Federal Communications Commission to designate a 3-digit dialing code for veterans in crisis.

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 “Suicide Prevention by
5 Eliminating Excessive Digits Act of 2019” or the
6 “SPEED Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF 3-DIGIT DIALING CODE FOR VET-**
8 **ERANS IN CRISIS.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

1 (1) the term “Commission” means the Federal
2 Communications Commission; and

3 (2) the term “covered dialing code” means a
4 simple, easy-to-remember, 3-digit dialing code.

5 (b) DESIGNATION.—As soon as practicable after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in con-
7 sultation with the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health
8 and Substance Use and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
9 shall designate a covered dialing code that veterans may
10 use to reach a national suicide prevention and mental
11 health crisis hotline system, which system may be—

12 (1) the Veterans Crisis Line;

13 (2) the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline; or

14 (3) another hotline.

15 (c) INCORPORATION OF STUDY FINDINGS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—In designating a covered di-
17 aling code under subsection (b), the Commission
18 shall incorporate the findings of the study conducted
19 under section 3(a) of the National Suicide Hotline
20 Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–233;
21 132 Stat. 2424).

22 (2) PRIORITIZING IMPLEMENTATION SPEED.—
23 Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to au-
24 thorize the Commission to delay the designation of
25 a covered dialing code under subsection (b) until

1 after the Commission submits the report under sec-
2 tion 3(b) of the National Suicide Hotline Improve-
3 ment Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–233; 132 Stat.
4 2424).

○