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MEMORANDUM

To: Monica Harris, Executive Director
Reaching Across Illinois Library System

From: Erin M. Monforti
Kurt S. Asprooth

Subject: New Legislation Requiring Libraries to Post 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Information

Date: July 29, 2026

On May 31, 2026, both houses of the Illinois General Assembly passed Senate Bill 2771 (the **Bill**), which has since been sent to Governor Pritzker for his signature. The Bill proposes to amend the Local Library Act¹ and Public Library District Act of 1991² to add identical language requiring libraries to provide information regarding suicide prevention resources:

Suicide prevention information. A public library shall place contact information for the 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline in the library in a prominent location that is visible to and accessible by patrons.

We want to note at the outset that the Bill has not yet been signed into law. This memo presents and answers questions we anticipate will be raised by members of Reaching Across Illinois Library System (**RAILS**) as they evaluate the Bill and options for compliance should it be signed and become effective.

1. Do the Bill's requirements apply to all libraries in Illinois?

Yes. As mentioned above, the Bill proposes to amend the Local Library Act and the Public Library District Act of 1991. Additionally, the Bill amends the Village Library Act and the Libraries in Parks Act to incorporate the same language regarding suicide prevention resources.

2. What information is required to be posted?

The Bill requires placement of “contact information” for the 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (**9-8-8 Lifeline**) in every public library. The 9-8-8 Lifeline is a free, nationwide resource

¹ Proposed changes would be codified at 75 ILCS 5/1-9.

² Proposed changes would be codified at 75 ILCS 16/1-27.

established by Congress in 2020³ and administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the federal government (*SAMHSA*). The 9-8-8 Lifeline is available for confidential consultation by phone call, text message, and online chatting, with additional resources available to individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or experiencing hearing loss.⁴

While the Bill does not define “contact information,” accessing the 9-8-8 Lifeline resources is fairly straightforward. Those looking for assistance can either (1) dial 9-8-8 for a phone call, (2) send a text message to 9-8-8 to be connected with a counselor and resources, or (3) use the “chat” function available on the 9-8-8 Lifeline website.⁵ From our review of materials providing 9-8-8 Lifeline information in a public setting, contact information often includes the phone number and a quick response (*QR*) code for simple access to the 9-8-8 Lifeline website and related resources. We recommend that materials posted in compliance with the Bill provide information on all three methods for accessing resources through the 9-8-8 Lifeline.

3. Where should information be posted?

The Bill requires that contact information be placed “in a prominent location that is *visible to* and *accessible by* patrons.” While there is not yet any guidance on interpreting this statutory language, we want to note several items for consideration by libraries as they plan to post information regarding the 9-8-8 Lifeline:

- Consider areas of heavy foot traffic and patron interest in the library (circulation desks, bulletin boards, restrooms, etc.) Avoid posting the required contact information in areas that involve advance registration (meeting rooms, program spaces) or are otherwise restricted (personnel-only areas, children’s areas).
- Consider what “accessible” might mean for patrons in the library. Providing resources that are easy to read, both in form and substance, will assist in making the contact information accessible to all patrons. For example, using larger print and easy-to-understand messaging will allow a broad population to consult the resources provided.
- Consider working with communications/marketing staff or vendors (where available) to ensure messaging is clear and appropriate for readers.

4. Are there resources available to assist libraries in complying with the Bill’s requirements?

Yes. The 9-8-8 Lifeline website has many resources to consult, including FAQs, a glossary of key terms, and information regarding what individuals can expect if they contact the 9-8-8 Lifeline. Notably, SAMHSA provides a wide variety of print materials that are accessible and free to the public.⁶ These materials include posters, notecards, and other resources that

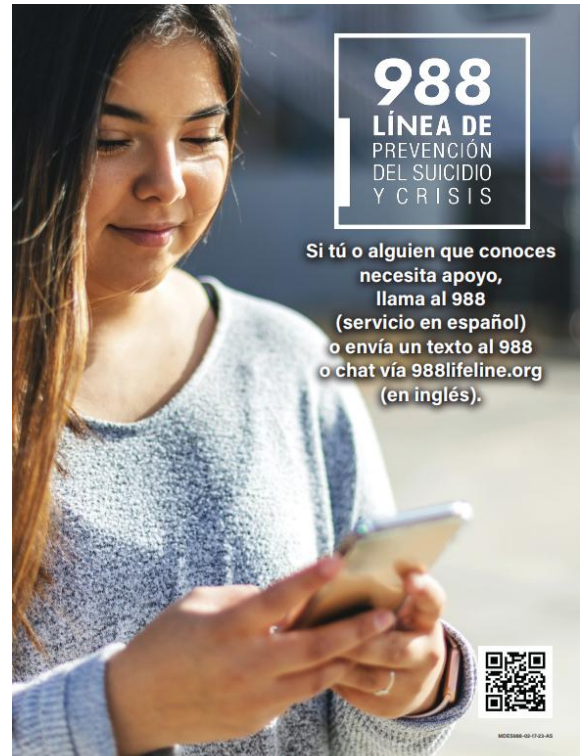
³ Note that the 9-8-8 lifeline is the new dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which was previously available by dialing 1 (800) 273-TALK (8255). The original number remains in service.

⁴ See <https://988lifeline.org/deaf-hard-of-hearing-hearing-loss/>.

⁵ See <https://988lifeline.org/>.

⁶ See <https://orders.gpo.gov/SAMHSA988/Pubs.aspx>.

incorporate standard messaging and contact information for accessing the lifeline. Several samples of print materials are reproduced below:



While the Bill does not require that libraries post SAMHSA-provided materials or resources, the above samples may provide a strong starting reference for libraries to create materials that contain adequate contact information in compliance with the Bill.

We recommend libraries consult with their attorneys and communication/marketing professionals to ensure the materials provided in compliance with the Bill are adequate.