CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

November 15, 2017

S. 1015
National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2017

As passed by the Senate on November 7, 2017

S. 1015 would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to coordinate with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the Department of Health and Human Services to study and report on the feasibility of designating a N11 dialing code as a national suicide prevention and mental health crises hotline system.[1]

Under the act, VA and SAMHSA would each be required to complete a separate study and analysis that would be used by the FCC to develop a comprehensive study and report that includes information from those two studies. The FCC would be required to provide additional analysis and recommendations on the logistics and costs to develop such a dialing code if the other agencies recommend that a dialing code be used.

Based on an analysis of information from the affected agencies, CBO estimates that implementing the provisions of S. 1015 would cost less than $500,000 over the 2018-2022 period for the agencies to coordinate and develop the analyses and reports required under the act; that spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting S. 1015 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1015 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

S. 1015 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Stephen Rabent. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

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1. The term N11 dialing code refers to an abbreviated dialing code consisting of three digits, of which the first may be any digit other than one or zero and each of the last two digits be one.