

HB 1089 -- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS HOTLINE

SPONSOR: Houx

This bill establishes a dedicated behavioral health crisis hotline for the purpose of receiving calls from persons in a mental health crisis and from members of the public who are concerned that a person might be a danger to themselves or others and in need of mental health services. The Department of Mental Health and the Department of Public Safety will develop training and protocols for staffing the hot line 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

The bill specifies that any person who makes a false report shall not have immunity from any civil or criminal liability. Any person who knowingly violates the confidentiality of a hotline call or uses the information provided for purposes other than to protect the safety of the public, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

The bill further outlines a variety of details as to the various functions of the hotline, the confidential nature of the staff, and the advertising requirements.

The Department of Mental Health shall provide an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the number of calls received and an aggregate categorization of the concerns.