

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING A LOCAL FIRST RESPONDER ENTITY TO
6 ESTABLISH A PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF A LOCAL
7 FIRST RESPONDER PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM; AND PROHIBITING A QUALIFIED PEER SUPPORTER
8 FROM TESTIFYING ABOUT THE CONTENT OF A PEER SUPPORT SESSION."

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Local first responder peer support programs. (1) A police department, sheriff's office, fire department, or emergency medical service provider may establish a first responder peer support program that is in compliance with the provisions of this section.

15 (2) A local first responder peer support program must have a written policy that outlines, at a
16 minimum:

17 (a) qualifications for a peer supporter, including certification and continuing education
18 requirements:

19 (b) guidelines for what constitutes a peer support session from a conversation between peers;

20 (c) definitions for a group debrief and peer support team;

21 (d) the prohibition of recording in writing or by video or audio any peer support session;

22 (e) how peer supporters in the program shall comply with the Health Insurance Portability

²³ Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1320d, et seq.;

24 (f) the ability of an employee to use mul

25 (g) the protection of an employee from being forced to use a r

26 authority over the employee;

27 (ii) the prohibition of harassment or discrimination against an employee or volunteer who seeks
28 services from the peer support program; and

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8 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
9 integral part of Title 7, chapter 32, part 21, and the provisions of Title 7, chapter 32, part 21, apply to [section 1].

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