

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:

12 **NEW SECTION.** **Section 1. Local first responder peer support programs.** (1) A police department,
13 sheriff's office, fire department, or emergency medical service provider may establish a first responder peer
14 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;

(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 and Accountability Act of 1996.

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

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

(c) the protection of an employee from being forced to use a

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

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

13 **COORDINATION SECTION. Section 3. Coordination instruction.** If both Senate Bill No. 518 and
14 [this act] are passed and approved, then the reference to "an appropriate licensing board" in [section 1(2)(i)(iii)
15 of this act] must be changed to "an appropriate licensing board or program".

17 **COORDINATION SECTION.** **Section 4. Coordination instruction.** If both Senate Bill No. 518 and
18 [this act] are passed and approved, then the reference to "reporting requirements of licensing boards" in
19 [section 1(2)(i)(iv)] must be changed to "reporting requirements of licensing boards or programs".

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