

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

(c) the protection of an employee from being forced to use a particular method of work.

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

- (i) confidentiality protections of the peer support program, including the following exceptions:
 - (i) if the employee has committed or plans to commit a crime; and
 - (ii) if the employee indicates the employee will cause harm to themself or to others;
- (III) IF THERE IS A REQUEST FROM AN APPROPRIATE LICENSING BOARD; AND
- (IV) IF THE MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF LICENSING BOARDS APPLY.

(3) A peer support session is confidential, and, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2)(i), a qualified reporter in a local first responder peer support program is prohibited from providing testimony about a peer support session, including individual and group peer support sessions.

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

COORDINATION SECTION. SECTION 3. COORDINATION INSTRUCTION. IF BOTH SENATE BILL NO. 518
IS ACT] ARE PASSED AND APPROVED, THEN THE REFERENCE TO "AN APPROPRIATE LICENSING BOARD" IN
IN 1(2)(I)(III) OF THIS ACT] MUST BE CHANGED TO "AN APPROPRIATE LICENSING BOARD OR PROGRAM".

COORDINATION SECTION. SECTION 4. COORDINATION INSTRUCTION. IF BOTH SENATE BILL NO. 518
IS ACT] ARE PASSED AND APPROVED, THEN THE REFERENCE TO "REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF LICENSING
" IN [SECTION 1(2)(I)(IV)] MUST BE CHANGED TO "REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF LICENSING BOARDS OR
MS".

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