

1 PUBLIC SAFETY PEER COUNSELING PROVISIONS

2 2018 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 Chief Sponsor: Lee B. Perry

5 Senate Sponsor: Daniel W. Thatcher

6

7 LONG TITLE

8 Committee Note:

9 The Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee recommended this bill.

10 General Description:

11 This bill creates provisions for peer support and counseling services within public
12 safety agencies.

13 Highlighted Provisions:

14 This bill:

- 15 ▶ defines terms;
- 16 ▶ provides for the creation of teams to provide peer support and counseling services
17 within public safety agencies;
- 18 ▶ requires that members of the peer support team receive training in accordance with

19 POST guidelines **§→ for law enforcement officers, the State Fire Marshal's Office for**
19a **firefighters, and the Health Department for all other first responders ←§** ; and

20 ▶ prohibits the release of information obtained through peer counseling except in
21 specified circumstances.

22 Money Appropriated in this Bill:

23 None

24 Other Special Clauses:

25 None

26 Utah Code Sections Affected:

27 ENACTS:



28 **78B-5-901**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

29

30 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

31 Section 1. Section **78B-5-901** is enacted to read:

32 **Part 9. Public Safety Peer Counseling**

33 **78B-5-901. Public safety peer counseling.**

34 (1) This part is known as "Public Safety Peer Counseling."

35 (2) As used in this chapter:

36 (a) "Communication" means an oral statement, written statement, note, record, report,
 37 or document made during, or arising out of, a meeting between a law enforcement officer,
 38 firefighter, emergency medical service provider, or rescue provider and a peer support team
 39 member.

40 (b) "Emergency medical service provider or rescue unit peer support team member"
 41 means a person who is:

42 (i) an emergency medical service provider as defined in Section **26-8a-102**, a regular or
 43 volunteer member of a rescue unit acting as an emergency responder as defined in Section
 44 **53-2a-502**, or another person who has been trained in peer support skills; and

45 (ii) designated by the chief executive of an emergency medical service agency or the
 46 chief of a rescue unit as a member of an emergency medical service provider's peer support
 47 team or as a member of a rescue unit's peer support team.

48 (c) "Law enforcement or firefighter peer support team member" means a person who
 49 is:

50 (i) a peace officer, ~~§~~ law enforcement dispatcher, ~~←§~~ civilian employee, or volunteer
 50a member of a law enforcement
 51 agency, a regular or volunteer member of a fire department, or another person who has been
 52 trained in peer support skills; and

53 (ii) designated by the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, the executive
 54 director of the Department of Corrections, a sheriff, a police chief, or a fire chief as a member
 55 of a law enforcement agency's peer support team or a fire department's peer support team.

56 (d) "Trained" means a person who has successfully completed a peer support training
 57 program approved by Peace Officer Standards and Training Division ~~§~~ , the State Fire Marshal's
 57a Office, or the Health Department, as applicable ~~←§~~ .

58 (3) (a) A law enforcement or firefighter peer support team member may not be