



719108

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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Floor: 1b/RE/2R

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03/08/2018 05:09 PM

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Senator Garcia moved the following:

1 **Senate Amendment to Amendment (445832) (with title**
2 **amendment)**

3
4 Between lines 38 and 39
5 insert:

6 (d) When evaluating a peer specialist's application for
7 exemption from disqualification, the department shall consider:

8 1. The need for peer specialists to provide support
9 services and the shortage of professionals and paraprofessionals
10 to provide behavioral health services.

11 2. That peer specialists may have criminal histories



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12 resulting from substance use disorders or mental illnesses that
13 prevent them from meeting background screening requirements.

14 3. That peer specialists provide effective mental health
15 and substance abuse treatment support services because they
16 share common life experiences with the persons they assist and
17 promote a sense of community among those in recovery.

18 4. That research has shown that peer support facilitates
19 recovery and reduces health care costs.

20
21 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

22 And the title is amended as follows:

23 Delete lines 127 - 137

24 and insert:

25 Delete lines 21 - 34

26 and insert:

27 certain treatment programs and facilities; requiring
28 the department to consider certain factors when
29 evaluating an application for an exemption; creating
30 s. 397.417, F.S.; providing qualifications for
31 certification as a peer specialist; requiring the
32 department to develop and implement a training program
33 for individuals seeking certification as peer
34 specialists; authorizing the department to designate
35 certain credentialing entities to certify peer
36 specialists; providing requirements for individuals
37 providing certain recovery support services as peer
38 specialists; providing that a peer specialist may be
39 reimbursed as a recovery service through the
40 department, a behavioral health managing entity, or



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41 the Medicaid program; encouraging Medicaid managed
42 care plans to use peer specialists in providing
43 recovery services; amending s. 397.487, F.S.; revising
44 legislative findings relating to voluntary
45 certification of recovery residences; revising
46 background