



115700

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/12/2019	.	
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The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (Harrell) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 230 - 260  
and insert:

(1) The Legislature intends to expand the use of peer specialists as a cost-effective means of providing services by ensuring that peer specialists meet specified qualifications, meet modified background screening requirements, and are adequately reimbursed for their services.

(2) An individual may seek certification as a peer



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11 specialist if he or she has been in recovery from a substance  
12 use disorder or mental illness for at least 2 years, or if he or  
13 she has at least 2 years of experience as a family member or  
14 caregiver of a person with a substance use disorder or mental  
15 illness.

16 (3) The department shall approve one or more third-party  
17 credentialing entities for the purposes of certifying peer  
18 specialists, approving training programs for individuals seeking  
19 certification as peer specialists, approving continuing  
20 education programs, and establishing the minimum requirements  
21 and standards that applicants must achieve to maintain  
22 certification. To obtain approval, the third-party credentialing  
23 entity must demonstrate compliance with nationally recognized  
24 standards for developing and administering professional  
25 certification programs to certify peer specialists.

26 (4) An individual providing department-funded recovery  
27 support services as a peer specialist shall be certified  
28 pursuant to subsection (3). An individual who is not certified  
29 may provide recovery support services as a peer specialist for  
30 up to 1 year if he or she is working toward certification and is  
31 supervised by a qualified professional or by a certified peer  
32 specialist who has at least 3 years of full-time experience as a  
33 peer specialist at a licensed behavioral health organization.

34 (5) An individual who is not a certified peer specialist  
35 may not advertise recovery services to the public in any way, or  
36 by any medium; or provide recovery services as a peer  
37 specialist, unless the person is exempt under subsection (4).  
38 Any individual who violates this subsection commits a  
39 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.



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40 775.082 or s. 775.083.

41 (6) Peer specialist services may be reimbursed as a  
42 recovery service through the department, a behavioral health  
43 managing entity, or the Medicaid program. Medicaid managed care  
44 plans are encouraged to use peer specialists in providing  
45 recovery services.

46  
47 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

48 And the title is amended as follows:

49 Delete lines 33 - 47

50 and insert:

51 providing legislative intent; authorizing an  
52 individual to seek certification as a peer specialist  
53 if he or she meets certain requirements; requiring the  
54 department to approve one or more third-party  
55 credentialing entities for specified purposes;  
56 requiring the credentialing entity to demonstrate  
57 compliance with certain standards in order to be  
58 approved by the department; requiring an individual  
59 providing department-funded recovery support services  
60 as a peer specialist to be certified; authorizing an  
61 individual who is not certified to provide recovery  
62 support services as a peer specialist under certain  
63 circumstances; prohibiting an individual who is not a  
64 certified peer specialist from advertising or  
65 providing recovery services unless the person is  
66 exempt; providing criminal penalties; authorizing the  
67 department, a behavioral health managing entity, or  
68 the Medicaid program to reimburse peer specialist



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69        services as a recovery service; encouraging Medicaid  
70        managed care plans to use peer specialists in  
71        providing recovery services;