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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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.

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