

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred House Bill  
3 No. 847 entitled “An act relating to peer support provider and recovery support  
4 specialist certification” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and  
5 recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended by  
6 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the  
7 following:

8 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 122 is amended to read:

9 § 122. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

10 The Office of Professional Regulation is created within the Office of the  
11 Secretary of State. The Office shall have a director who shall be qualified by  
12 education and professional experience to perform the duties of the position.  
13 The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall be a classified  
14 position with the Office of the Secretary of State. The following boards or  
15 professions are attached to the Office of Professional Regulation:

16 \* \* \*

17 (52) Peer support providers

18 (53) Peer recovery support specialists

19 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 123 is amended to read:

20 § 123. DUTIES OF OFFICE

21 \* \* \*

1 (j)(1) The Office may inquire into the criminal background histories of  
2 applicants for initial licensure and for license renewal of any Office-issued  
3 credential, including a license, certification, registration, or specialty  
4 designation for the following professions:

5 \* \* \*

6 (I) speech-language pathologists licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter  
7 87; ~~and~~

8 (J) peer support providers and peer recovery support specialists  
9 certified under 26 V.S.A. chapter 60; and

10 (K) individuals registered on the roster of psychotherapists who are  
11 nonlicensed and noncertified.

12 \* \* \*

13 Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 125 is amended to read:

14 § 125. FEES

15 \* \* \*

16 (b) Unless otherwise provided by law, the following fees shall apply to all  
17 professions regulated by the Director in consultation with advisor appointees  
18 under Title 26:

19 \* \* \*

20 (2) Application for licensure or certification, \$115.00, except application  
21 for:

1 \* \* \*

2 (Q) Peer support providers or peer recovery support specialists,  
3 \$50.00.

4 \* \* \*

5 (4) Biennial renewal, \$275.00, except biennial renewal for:

6 \* \* \*

7 (V) Peer support provider or peer recovery support specialist, \$50.00.

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. 3a. 3 V.S.A. § 125 is amended to read:

10 § 125. FEES

11 \* \* \*

12 (b) Unless otherwise provided by law, the following fees shall apply to all  
13 professions regulated by the Director in consultation with advisor appointees  
14 under Title 26:

15 \* \* \*

16 (2) Application for licensure or certification, \$115.00, except application  
17 for:

18 \* \* \*

19 (Q) Peer support providers or peer recovery support specialists,

20 ~~\$50.00~~ \$75.00.

21 \* \* \*

1 Sec. 4. 26 V.S.A. chapter 60 is added to read:

2 CHAPTER 60. PEER SUPPORT PROVIDERS AND PEER RECOVERY

3 SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

4 § 3191. DEFINITIONS

5 As used in this chapter:

6 (1) “Certified peer support provider” means an individual who holds a  
7 certificate to engage in the practice of peer support services under this chapter.

8 (2) “Certified peer recovery support specialist” means an individual who  
9 holds a certificate to engage in the practice of recovery support services under  
10 this chapter.

11 (3) “Code of Ethics for Certified Peer Support Providers” means the  
12 code of ethics for certified peer support providers approved and adopted by the  
13 Department of Mental Health.

14 (4) “Code of Ethics for Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialists”  
15 means the code of ethics for certified peer recovery support specialists  
16 approved and adopted by the Department of Health.

17 (5) “Office” means the Office of Professional Regulation.

18 (6) “Peer support provider credentialing body” means the entity  
19 authorized by the Department of Mental Health to, in addition to other duties:

1           (A) issue credentials to peer support providers to demonstrate that a  
2           peer support provider has met the qualifications for certification under the  
3           chapter; and

4           (B) approve acceptable continuing education courses.

5           (7) “Peer support” means the provision of those services that address  
6           mutually agreeable issues or areas of life consistent with the Code of Ethics for  
7           Certified Peer Support Providers that are reasonably related to increasing an  
8           individual’s capacity to live a self-determined life of their own choosing and  
9           that are provided in a mutual relationship between individuals with a lived  
10           experience of trauma, mental health, or substance use challenges. “Peer  
11           support” emphasizes a nonjudgmental, values-driven approach that promotes  
12           multiple perspectives, advocates for human rights and dignity, and focuses on  
13           genuine, mutual relationships that enrich the lives of those involved. “Peer  
14           support” includes providing health and wellness supports; supporting  
15           individuals in accessing community-based resources and navigating State and  
16           local systems; providing employment supports, including transitioning into and  
17           staying in the workforce; and promoting empowerment and a sense of hope  
18           through self-advocacy. “Peer support” does not include the provision of  
19           psychotherapy as defined in section 4082 of this title.

1           (8) “Practice of peer support” means the provision of peer support in a  
2           manner consistent with the Code of Ethics for Certified Peer Support  
3           Providers.

4           (9) “Practice of recovery support services” means the provision of  
5           recovery support services in a manner consistent with the Code of Ethics for  
6           Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialists.

7           (10) “Recovery support services” means a set of culturally competent,  
8           nonclinical, evidence-based activities provided consistent with the Code of  
9           Ethics for Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialists and coordinated through  
10           a written individualized recovery plan of care that documents a substance use  
11           disorder and reflects the need and preferences of the individual in achieving  
12           the specific, individualized, measurable goals specified in the plan. “Recovery  
13           support services” are provided in a mutual relationship by an individual with  
14           lived experience of either recovery from a substance use disorder or having a  
15           close relationship with an individual in recovery from a substance use disorder,  
16           and include a range of social and other services that facilitate recovery from  
17           substance use disorder, support health and wellness, and link individuals with  
18           service providers and other supports shown to improve quality of life for  
19           persons, and their families, in and seeking recovery from substance use.  
20           “Recovery support services” do not include the provision of psychotherapy as  
21           defined in section 4082 of this title.

1           (11) “Peer recovery support specialist credentialing body” means the  
2           entity authorized by the Department of Health to, in addition to other duties:

3                   (A) issue credentials to peer recovery support specialists to  
4           demonstrate that a peer recovery support specialist has met qualifications for  
5           certification under this chapter; and

6                   (B) approve acceptable continuing education courses.

7           § 3192. PROHIBITIONS; PENALTIES

8           (a) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prohibit the practice of  
9           peer support by a noncertified provider. However, a person shall not use in  
10           connection with the person’s name any letters, words, or insignia indicating or  
11           implying that the person is a certified peer support provider unless that person  
12           is certified in accordance with this chapter.

13           (b) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prohibit the practice of  
14           recovery support services by a noncertified provider. However, a person shall  
15           not use in connection with person’s name any letters, words, or insignia  
16           indicating or implying that the person is a certified peer recovery support  
17           specialist unless that person is certified in accordance with this chapter.

18           (c) A person who violates this section shall be subject to the penalties  
19           provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127(c).

20           § 3193. DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR

21           (a) The Director shall:

1           (1) provide general information to applicants for certification as certified  
2           peer support providers or certified peer recovery support specialists, or both;

3           (2) receive applicants for certification; grant and renew certifications in  
4           accordance with this chapter; and deny, revoke, suspend, reinstate, or condition  
5           certifications as directed by an administrative law officer;

6           (3) explain appeal procedures to certified peer support providers,  
7           certified peer recovery support specialists, and applicants;

8           (4) explain complaint procedures to the public;

9           (5) administer fees collected in accordance with this chapter and  
10          3 V.S.A. § 125; and

11          (6) refer all disciplinary matters to an administrative law officer  
12          established under 3 V.S.A. § 129(j).

13          (b) After consultation with the Commissioners of Health and of Mental  
14          Health, the Director shall adopt and amend rules as necessary pursuant to  
15          3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to perform the Director’s duties under this chapter.

16          § 3194. ADVISOR APPOINTEES

17          (a)(1) After consultation with the Commissioners of Health and of Mental  
18          Health, the Secretary of State shall appoint two certified peer support  
19          providers, two certified peer recovery support specialists, one representative  
20          from the Department of Health, and one representative from the Department of  
21          Mental Health to serve as advisors to the Director in matters relating to peer



1 support and recovery support. Advisors shall be appointed to five-year  
2 staggered terms to serve as advisors in matters related to the administration of  
3 this chapter. At least one of the initial appointments shall be less than a five-  
4 year term.

5 (2) A certified peer support provider serving as an advisor shall:

6 (A) have at least three years' experience as a peer support provider  
7 immediately preceding appointment;

8 (B) be certified as a peer support provider in Vermont at the time of  
9 appointment and during incumbency; and

10 (C) remain actively engaged in the practice of peer support in this  
11 State during incumbency.

12 (3) A certified peer recovery support specialist serving as an advisor  
13 shall:

14 (A) be certified as a peer recovery support specialist in Vermont at  
15 the time of appointment and during incumbency; and

16 (B) remain actively engaged in the practice of recovery support  
17 services in this State during incumbency.

18 (b) The Director shall seek the advice of the advisor appointees in carrying  
19 out the provisions of this chapter. Advisors who are not employed by the State  
20 shall be entitled to compensation and necessary expenses in the amount

1 provided in 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for attendance at any meeting called by the  
2 Director for this purpose.

3 § 3195. ELIGIBILITY

4 (a) To be eligible for certification as a certified peer support provider, an  
5 applicant shall complete and submit an application in the manner as the  
6 Director prescribes in rule, accompanied by the applicable fees, and evidence  
7 satisfactory to the Director that the applicant:

8 (1) is at least 18 years of age;

9 (2) has received a credential from the peer support provider  
10 credentialing body; and

11 (3) has passed registry checks and criminal history checks that may be  
12 required in rule.

13 (b) To be eligible for certification as a peer recovery support specialist, an  
14 applicant shall complete and submit an application in the manner as the  
15 Director prescribes by the rule, accompanied by the applicable fees, and  
16 evidence satisfactory to the Director that the applicant:

17 (1) is at least 18 years of age;

18 (2) has received a credential from the peer recovery support specialist  
19 credentialing body; and

20 (3) has passed registry checks and criminal history checks that may be  
21 required in rule.

1     § 3196. CERTIFICATE RENEWAL

2             A peer support specialist provider certification and a peer recovery support  
3 specialist certification shall be renewed every two years upon application,  
4 payment of the required fee in accordance with 3 V.S.A. § 125, and proof of  
5 compliance with such continuing education or periodic reexamination  
6 requirements established in rule. The fee shall be paid biennially upon  
7 renewal.

8     § 3197. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

9             (a) Unprofessional conduct means misusing a title in professional activity  
10 and any of the conduct listed in 3 V.S.A. § 129a, whether committed by a  
11 certified peer support provider, a certified peer recovery support specialist, or  
12 an applicant.

13             (b) The Office may discipline a certified peer support provider or a  
14 certified peer recovery support specialist for unprofessional conduct as  
15 provided in 3 V.S.A. § 129a.

16     Sec. 5. RULEMAKING; PEER SUPPORT PROVIDERS AND PEER  
17             RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

18             On or before September 1, 2024, the Director of Professional Regulation  
19 shall file an initial proposed rule with the Secretary of State pursuant to  
20 3 V.S.A. § 836(a)(2) for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of  
21 26 V.S.A. chapter 60.

1       Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

2           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except:

3           (1) this section and Sec. 5 (rulemaking; peer support providers and peer  
4 recovery support specialists) shall take effect on passage; and

5           (2) Sec. 3a (fees) shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

6           and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act  
7 relating to peer support provider and peer recovery support specialist  
8 certification”

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14           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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\_\_\_\_\_

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE