

H.847: An act relating to peer support provider and peer recovery support specialist certification
as passed by the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

Sec. 1. Office of Professional Regulation (3 V.S.A. § 122)

- Adds peer support providers and peer recovery support specialists to the list of professions regulated by OPR

Sec. 2. Duties of Office (3 V.S.A. § 123)

- Adds peer support providers and peer recovery support specialists to the list of professions that OPR may inquire into with regard to the criminal background histories of applicants and candidates for certificate renewal

Sec. 3. Fees (3 V.S.A. § 125)

- Sets the initial application for certification fee at \$50
- Sets the biennial renewal fee at \$50

Sec. 3a. Fees (3 V.S.A. § 125)—Effective July 1, 2027

- Amends the initial application for certification fee to \$75

Sec. 4. Peer Support Providers and Peer Recovery Support Specialists (26 V.S.A. chapter 60)

§ 3191. Definitions

- Defines numerous terms including “peer support” and “recovery support services”

§ 3192. Prohibitions; Penalties

- Specifies that while the bill would not prevent the work of a noncertified provider, only an individual certified under this chapter can call themselves a certified peer support provider or certified peer recovery support specialist, respectively

§ 3193. Duties of the Director

- (a) Lists the following duties of the Director of OPR:
 - Provide general information to applicants and certified providers;
 - Receive applications for certification; grant and renew certifications; deny, revoke, suspend, reinstate, or condition certifications as directed by an administrative law officer;
 - Explain appeal procedures to applicants and certified providers;
 - Explain complaint procedures to the public;
 - Administer fees collected; and
 - Refer disciplinary matters to an administrative law officer
- (b) Requires the Director to adopt rules after consultation with the Commissioners of Health and of Mental Health

§ 3194. Advisor Appointees

- (a)(1) After consultation with the Commissioners of Health and of Mental Health, requires the Director of OPR to appoint 2 certified peer support provider, 2 certified peer

recovery support specialists, a representative of VDH, and a representative of DMH to serve as advisors to the Director

- (2) & (3) Describes the credentials of certified peer support provider and certified peer recovery support specialist advisors
- (b) Requires the Director to seek the advice of advisors in carrying out the chapter and specifies that advisors are entitled to compensation for necessary expenses

§ 3195. Eligibility

- Eligibility for certification as a peer support provider or peer recovery support specialist requires:
 - Submission of a completed application to OPR;
 - Application (or renewal) fees;
 - Satisfactory evidence that the applicant:
 - Is 18 years of age;
 - Has received a credential from the relevant credentialing body; and
 - Has passed registry checks and criminal background checks that may be required in rule

§ 3196. Certificate Renewal

- Requires that certification be renewed every two years upon application, payment of the renewal fee, and proof of compliance with continuing education requirements

§ 3197. Unprofessional Conduct

- (a) Unprofessional conduct means misusing a title and conduct listed in 3 V.S.A. § 129a by an applicant or certified professional
- (b) OPR may discipline a certified professional as provided in 3 V.S.A. § 129a

Sec. 5. Rulemaking; Peer Support Providers and Peer Recovery Support Specialists

- By 9/1/24, Director of OPR is required to file an initial proposed rule with the Secretary of State for the purposes of carrying out the provisions in 26 V.S.A. chapter 60

Sec. 6. Effective Dates

- Act takes effect 7/1/25, except:
 - Secs. 5 & 6 take effect on passage; and
 - Sec. 3a takes effect on 7/1/27