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Act No. 170 (H.847). An act relating to peer support provider and peer recovery support specialist certification

Subjects: Certification; professions and occupations; peer support providers; peer recovery support specialists

This act adds peer support providers and peer recovery support specialists as professions regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR). Sec. 2 authorizes OPR to inquire into the criminal background histories of applicants for initial certification and certificate renewal. Secs. 3 and 3a set the initial certification fee and the biennial renewal fee for peer support providers and peer recovery support specialists.

Sec. 4 of the act establishes a new chapter in Title 26 pertaining to the regulation of peer support providers and peer recovery support specialists. Specifically, it defines “peer support” and “recovery support services” among other terms; indicates that the work of noncertified peer support providers or noncertified peer recovery support specialists is not prohibited under the act; requires that an individual be certified if the individual calls themselves a certified peer support provider or certified peer recovery support specialist; establishes the duties of the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation under the chapter; establishes eligibility for certification; establishes eligibility to serve as an advisor to the Director; and articulates what constitutes unprofessional conduct for a peer support provider and peer recovery support specialist.

Sec. 5 requires the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation to adopt rules for the implementation of the chapter.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 10, 2024