

1 H.847

2 An act relating to peer support provider and peer recovery support specialist  
3 certification

4 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

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

6 § 122. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

7 The Office of Professional Regulation is created within the Office of the  
8 Secretary of State. The Office shall have a director who shall be qualified by  
9 education and professional experience to perform the duties of the position.

10 The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall be a classified  
11 position with the Office of the Secretary of State. The following boards or  
12 professions are attached to the Office of Professional Regulation:

13 \* \* \*

14 (52) Peer support providers

15 (53) Peer recovery support specialists

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

17 § 123. DUTIES OF OFFICE

18 \* \* \*

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

1 \* \* \*

2 (I) speech-language pathologists licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter  
3 87; ~~and~~

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

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

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. 3. 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.

21 \* \* \*

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

2 \* \* \*

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

4 \* \* \*

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

6 § 125. FEES

7 \* \* \*

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

11 \* \* \*

12 (2) Application for licensure or certification, \$115.00, except application  
13 for:

14 \* \* \*

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

16 ~~\$50.00~~ \$75.00.

17 \* \* \*

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

19 CHAPTER 60. PEER SUPPORT PROVIDERS AND PEER RECOVERY

20 SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

1     § 3191. DEFINITIONS

2         As used in this chapter:

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

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

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

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

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

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

17                 (A) issue credentials to peer support providers to demonstrate that a  
18                 peer support provider has met the qualifications for certification under the  
19                 chapter; and

20                 (B) approve acceptable continuing education courses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21                   (B) approve acceptable continuing education courses.

1     § 3192. PROHIBITIONS; PENALTIES

2         (a) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prohibit the practice of  
3     peer support by a noncertified provider. However, a person shall not use in  
4     connection with the person's name any letters, words, or insignia indicating or  
5     implying that the person is a certified peer support provider unless that person  
6     is certified in accordance with this chapter.

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

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

14    § 3193. DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR

15         (a) The Director shall:

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

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

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

3           (4) explain complaint procedures to the public;

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

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

8           (b) After consultation with the Commissioners of Health and of Mental  
9           Health, the Director shall adopt and amend rules as necessary pursuant to  
10           3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to perform the Director’s duties under this chapter.

11           § 3194. ADVISOR APPOINTEES

12           (a)(1) After consultation with the Commissioners of Health and of Mental  
13           Health, the Secretary of State shall appoint two certified peer support  
14           providers, two certified peer recovery support specialists, one representative  
15           from the Department of Health, and one representative from the Department of  
16           Mental Health to serve as advisors to the Director in matters relating to peer  
17           support and recovery support. Advisors shall be appointed to five-year  
18           staggered terms to serve as advisors in matters related to the administration of  
19           this chapter. At least one of the initial appointments shall be less than a five-  
20           year term.

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



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

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

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

7           (3) A certified peer recovery support specialist serving as an advisor  
8           shall:

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

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

13          (b) The Director shall seek the advice of the advisor appointees in carrying  
14          out the provisions of this chapter. Advisors who are not employed by the State  
15          shall be entitled to compensation and necessary expenses in the amount  
16          provided in 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for attendance at any meeting called by the  
17          Director for this purpose.

18          § 3195. ELIGIBILITY

19          (a) To be eligible for certification as a certified peer support provider, an  
20          applicant shall complete and submit an application in the manner as the

1 Director prescribes in rule, accompanied by the applicable fees, and evidence  
2 satisfactory to the Director that the applicant:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 § 3196. CERTIFICATE RENEWAL

18 A peer support specialist provider certification and a peer recovery support  
19 specialist certification shall be renewed every two years upon application,  
20 payment of the required fee in accordance with 3 V.S.A. § 125, and proof of  
21 compliance with such continuing education or periodic reexamination

1 requirements established in rule. The fee shall be paid biennially upon  
2 renewal.

3 § 3197. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

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

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

11 Sec. 5. RULEMAKING; PEER SUPPORT PROVIDERS AND PEER  
12 RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

13 On or before September 1, 2024, the Director of Professional Regulation  
14 shall file an initial proposed rule with the Secretary of State pursuant to  
15 3 V.S.A. § 836(a)(2) for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of  
16 26 V.S.A. chapter 60.

17 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

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

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

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