# Second Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

# REREVISED

This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted in the Second House SENATE BILL 24-063

LLS NO. 24-0161.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

#### 101 CONCERNING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF DISCUSSIONS IN A PEER

102 SUPPORT SETTING.

#### **Bill Summary**

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <u>http://leg.colorado.gov.</u>)

The bill prohibits a peer support team member or recipient of group peer support services from being examined as a witness without the consent of the person to whom the examination relates.

1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:



HOUSE 2nd Reading Unamended March 8, 2024





SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-90-107, amend
 (1)(m) as follows:

**13-90-107.** Who may not testify without consent - definitions.
(1) There are particular relations in which it is the policy of the law to
encourage confidence and to preserve it inviolate; therefore, a person
must not be examined as a witness in the following cases:

7 (m) (I) A law enforcement or firefighter peer support team 8 member, shall EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER OR RESCUE UNIT 9 PEER SUPPORT TEAM MEMBER, OR DISTRICT ATTORNEY OR PUBLIC 10 DEFENDER PEER SUPPORT TEAM MEMBER MUST not be examined without 11 the consent of the person to whom peer support services have been 12 provided as to any communication made by the person to the peer support 13 team member under the circumstances described in subsection (1)(m)(III) 14 SUBSECTION (1)(m)(IV) of this section; nor shall IS a recipient of peer 15 support services TO be examined as to any such communication without 16 the recipient's consent.

(I.5) An emergency medical service provider or rescue unit peer support team member shall not be examined without the consent of the person to whom peer support services have been provided as to any communication made by the person to the peer support team member under the circumstances described in subsection (1)(m)(III) of this section; nor shall a recipient of peer support services be examined as to any such communication without the recipient's consent.

(I.6) A district attorney or public defender peer support team
 member shall not be examined without the consent of the person to whom
 peer support services have been provided as to any communication made
 by the person to the peer support team member under the circumstances

described in subsection (1)(m)(III) of this section; nor shall a recipient of
 peer support services be examined as to any such communication without
 the recipient's consent.

4 (II) RECIPIENTS OF GROUP PEER SUPPORT SERVICES MUST NOT BE
5 EXAMINED AS TO ANY KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM OTHER RECIPIENTS OF
6 GROUP PEER SUPPORT SERVICES WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE PERSON TO
7 WHOM THE KNOWLEDGE RELATES.

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(II) (III) As used in this subsection (1)(m):

9 (A) "Communication" means an oral statement, written statement,
10 note, record, report, or document made during, or arising out of, a
11 meeting with a peer support team member.

12 (A.3) (B) "District attorney or public defender peer support team 13 member" means an employee of a district attorney's office or a public 14 defender's office who has been trained in peer support skills and who is 15 officially designated by a district attorney or the state public defender as 16 a member of a district attorney's office peer support team or an office of 17 the state public defender peer support team.

18 (A.5)(C) "Emergency medical service provider or rescue unit peer 19 support team member" means an emergency medical service provider, as 20 defined in section 25-3.5-103, (8), C.R.S., a regular or volunteer member 21 of a rescue unit, as defined in section 25-3.5-103, (11), C.R.S., or other 22 person who has been trained in peer support skills and who is officially 23 designated by the supervisor of an emergency medical service agency as 24 defined in section 25-3.5-103 (11.5), C.R.S., or a chief of a rescue unit as 25 a member of an emergency medical service provider's peer support team 26 or rescue unit's peer support team.

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(D) "GROUP PEER SUPPORT SERVICES" MEANS PEER SUPPORT

-3-

INTERACTIONS COMPRISED OF AT LEAST ONE PEER SUPPORT MEMBER AND
 MORE THAN ONE RECIPIENT OF GROUP PEER SUPPORT SERVICES, AND
 INCLUDES ANY GROUP MEETING CONDUCTED OR FACILITATED BY ONE OR
 MORE PEER SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PEER SUPPORT
 OR INCIDENT DEBRIEFING.

6 (B) (E) "Law enforcement or firefighter peer support team 7 member" means a peace officer, civilian employee, or volunteer member 8 of a law enforcement agency or a regular or volunteer member of a fire 9 department or other person who has been trained in peer support skills 10 and who is officially designated by a police chief, the chief of the 11 Colorado state patrol, a sheriff, or a fire chief as a member of a law 12 enforcement agency's peer support team or a fire department's peer 13 support team.

(III) (IV) This subsection (1)(m) applies only to communications
 made during interactions conducted by a peer support team member:

(A) Acting in the person's official capacity as a law enforcement
 or firefighter peer support team member, emergency medical service
 provider or rescue unit peer support team member, or district attorney or
 public defender peer support team member; and

(B) Functioning within the written peer support guidelines that are
in effect for the person's respective law enforcement agency, fire
department, emergency medical service agency, rescue unit, district
attorney's office, or public defender's office.

(IV) (V) This subsection (1)(m) does not apply in cases in which:
 (A) A law enforcement or firefighter peer support team member,
 emergency medical service provider or rescue unit peer support team
 member, or district attorney or public defender peer support team member

-4-

was a witness or a party to an incident which prompted the delivery of
 peer support services;

3 (B) Information received by a peer support team member is 4 indicative of actual or suspected child abuse, as described in section 5 18-6-401; actual or suspected child neglect, as described in section 6 19-3-102; or actual or suspected crimes against at-risk persons, as 7 described in section 18-6.5-103;

8 (C) Due to intoxication by alcohol, being under the influence of 9 drugs, or incapacitation by substances as described in section 27-81-111, 10 the person receiving peer support is a clear and immediate danger to the 11 person's self or others;

(D) There is reasonable cause to believe that the person receiving
peer support has a mental health disorder and, due to the mental health
disorder, is an imminent threat to himself or herself or others or is gravely
disabled as defined in section 27-65-102; or

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(E) There is information indicative of any criminal conduct.

17 **SECTION 2.** Act subject to petition - effective date. This act 18 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the 19 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except 20 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V 21 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this 22 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take 23 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in 24 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the 25 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

-5-