



302268

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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Floor: WD/2R

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03/08/2018 03:15 PM

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Senator Garcia moved the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Between lines 65 and 66

insert:

(c) When evaluating a peer specialist's application for exemption from disqualification, the department or agency shall consider:

1. The need for peer specialists to provide support services and the shortage of professionals and paraprofessionals to provide behavioral health services.

2. That peer specialists may have criminal histories



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12 resulting from substance use disorders or mental illnesses that  
13 prevent them from meeting background screening requirements.

14 3. That peer specialists provide effective mental health  
15 and substance abuse treatment support services because they  
16 share common life experiences with the persons they assist and  
17 promote a sense of community among those in recovery.

18 4. That research has shown that peer support facilitates  
19 recovery and reduces health care costs.

20  
21 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

22 And the title is amended as follows:

23 Delete lines 4 - 12

24 and insert:

25 Children and Families and the Agency for Health Care  
26 Administration to grant exemptions from  
27 disqualification for service provider personnel to  
28 work solely in certain treatment programs and  
29 facilities; requiring the department or agency to  
30 consider certain factors when evaluating an  
31 application for an exemption; amending s. 397.311,  
32 F.S.; defining the term "peer specialist"; amending s.  
33 397.4073, F.S.; revising provisions relating to  
34 background checks and exemptions from disqualification  
35 for certain service provider personnel; requiring the  
36 department to grant or deny