

By Senator Perry

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to peer-to-peer support for first  
3           responders; creating s. 111.09, F.S.; defining terms;  
4           prohibiting a person who is not a health care  
5           practitioner and who provides peer-to-peer support to  
6           a first responder from testifying or divulging  
7           specified information under certain circumstances;  
8           providing exceptions; prohibiting liability and a  
9           cause of action under certain circumstances; providing  
10          an effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14           Section 1. Section 111.09, Florida Statutes, is created to  
15 read:

16           111.09 Peer-to-peer support for first responders.-

17           (1) For purposes of this section, the term:

18           (a) "First responder" has the same meaning as provided in  
19 s. 112.1815 and includes public safety communications officers,  
20 dispatchers, and 911 or other phone system operators whose job  
21 duties include providing support or services to first  
22 responders.

23           (b) "Health care practitioner" has the same meaning as  
24 provided in s. 456.001.

25           (c) "Peer-to-peer support" means any conversation or  
26 communication between a first responder and a person who is not  
27 a health care practitioner but who has experience working as or  
28 with a first responder regarding any physical or emotional  
29 conditions or issues associated with the first responder's

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30 employment.

31 (2) A person who is not a health care practitioner and who  
32 provides peer-to-peer support to a first responder may not  
33 testify in any civil, criminal, administrative, or disciplinary  
34 proceeding or otherwise divulge information obtained during such  
35 peer-to-peer support, except when any of the following occur:

36 (a) The person providing peer-to-peer support is a  
37 defendant in a civil, criminal, administrative, or disciplinary  
38 proceeding arising from a complaint filed by the first  
39 responder, in which case such information may be divulged but is  
40 limited to the scope of the proceeding.

41 (b) The first responder agrees, in writing, to allow the  
42 person to testify about or divulge information related to the  
43 peer-to-peer support.

44 (c) There are articulable facts or circumstances that would  
45 lead a reasonable, prudent person to fear for the safety of the  
46 first responder, another person, or society, and the person  
47 providing peer-to-peer support communicates the information only  
48 to the potential victims, appropriate family members, or law  
49 enforcement or other appropriate authorities. There is no  
50 liability on the part of, and no cause of action of any nature  
51 may arise against, the person for disclosing information under  
52 this paragraph.

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.