

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.

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 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
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
45 | would lead a reasonable, prudent person to fear for the safety
46 | of the first responder, another person, or society, and the
47 | person providing peer-to-peer support communicates the
48 | information only to the potential victims, appropriate family
49 | members, or law enforcement or other appropriate authorities.
50 | There is no liability on the part of, and no cause of action of

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51 | any nature may arise against, the person for disclosing
52 | information under this paragraph.

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