

Amendment to SB 207

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2  
3 AN ACT establishing a committee to study licensure of mental health professionals and  
4 relative to mental health critical incident intervention and management.  
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6 Amend the bill by replacing all after section 6 with the following:

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8 7 Emergency Medical and Trauma Services; Critical Incident Intervention and Management.  
9 Amend RSA 153-A:17-a, I(e) - III(b) to read as follows:

10 (e) "Critical incident stress management team" or "team" means the group of one or  
11 more trained volunteers, including members of peer support groups organized by a unit of state,  
12 local, ~~[or]~~ county government, **or employee organization** who offer critical incident stress  
13 management, ~~[and]~~ crisis intervention **or peer support** services following a critical incident or long  
14 term or continued, debilitating stress being experienced by emergency services providers and  
15 affecting them or their family situation.

16 (f) (1) **"Peer Support Group" means the group of one or more trained volunteers,**  
17 **organized by a unit of state, local, county government or employee organization that can**  
18 **recognize common behavioral health issues, provide support services, and serve as a bridge**  
19 **to community resources or behavioral health treatment when indicated.**

20 ~~[(f)(1)]~~ (2) "Critical incident stress management team member" or "team member"  
21 means an emergency services provider, including any law enforcement officer, sheriff or deputy  
22 sheriff, state police officer, civilian law enforcement employee, firefighter, civilian fire department  
23 employee, emergency medical personnel, telecommunicators, and local dispatchers specially trained  
24 to provide critical incident stress management, ~~[and]~~ crisis intervention **or peer support** services as  
25 a member of an organized and registered team.

26 ~~[(2)]~~ (3) In this subparagraph:

27 (A) "Telecommunicator" means an employee of the department of safety, division  
28 of emergency services and communications who is responsible for receiving at the public safety  
29 answering point telephone calls made to E911 and transferring or relaying such calls to public or  
30 private safety agencies.

31 (B) "Local dispatcher" means a person who determines the location, status, and  
32 assistance required by callers and walk-in customers for public safety services and dispatches the

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appropriate police, fire, ambulance, or other units to provide needed emergency services at the state, city, town, or private emergency services level.

II.(a) Team members shall undergo and sustain certification standards set forth in guidelines established by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) approved by the commissioner of the department of safety, or a similar organization for which the commissioner shall not unreasonably withhold approval. The team shall be registered with ICISF, or a similar organization, and maintain training standards to date as required.

(b) All critical incident stress management team members **or peer support group members**, sworn or civilian, shall be designated by the police chief, sheriff, director of the division of state police, fire chief, or director of the division of emergency services and communications, **or head of an employee organization**.

III.(a) Any information divulged to the team, ~~[or a]~~ team member **or peer support group member**, during the provision of critical incident stress management, ~~[and]~~ crisis intervention **or peer support** services shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed to a third party or in a criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding. Records kept by critical incident stress management team members **or peer support group** are not subject to subpoena, discovery, or introduction into evidence in a criminal, civil, or administrative action. Except as provided in subparagraph (c), no person, whether critical incident stress management team member, ~~[or]~~ team leader **or peer support group member** providing or receiving critical incident stress management, ~~[and]~~ crisis intervention **or peer support** services, shall be required to testify or divulge any information obtained solely through such crisis intervention.

(b) The purpose of this section is to provide a consistent framework for the operation of critical incident stress management teams, **peer support groups**, and their members. In any civil action against any individual, agency, or government entity, including the state of New Hampshire, arising out of the conduct of a member of such team, this section is not intended and shall not be admissible to establish negligence in any instance where requirements herein are higher than the standard of care that would otherwise have been applicable in such action under state law.

8 Effective Date.

I. Section 7 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

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2023-0302s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

- I. Establishes a committee to study licensure of mental health professionals.
- II. Adds a new definition for "peer support group" to emergency medical and trauma services and critical incident intervention and management.