

1 HB112  
2 210646-2  
3 By Representatives Pettus, Hanes and Bedsole  
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security  
5 First Read: 02-FEB-21  
6 PFD: 01/26/2021

1 ENGROSSED

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4 A BILL  
5 TO BE ENTITLED  
6 AN ACT  
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8 Relating to emergency responders; to amend Section  
9 36-21-14, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize the Alabama Fire  
10 College to provide certification to certain peer support  
11 members.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

13 Section 1. Section 36-21-14, Code of Alabama 1975,  
14 is amended to read as follows:

15 "§36-21-14.

16 "(a) As used in this section, the following terms  
17 shall have the following meanings:

18 "(1) CERTIFIED PEER SUPPORT MEMBER. ~~A law~~  
19 ~~enforcement officer, firefighter, paramedic, emergency~~  
20 ~~dispatcher, emergency medical technician of an emergency~~  
21 ~~service agency or entity, An emergency responder~~ or a person  
22 who is assigned to be a chaplain by an emergency service  
23 agency, ~~who has received training in critical incident stress~~  
24 ~~management and~~ who is certified as a peer support member by  
25 the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency or the Alabama Fire  
26 College to provide emotional and moral support to an emergency  
27 responder who needs emotional or moral support as a result of

1 job-related stress or an incident in which the emergency  
2 responder was involved while acting in his or her official  
3 capacity.

4 "(2) EMERGENCY RESPONDER. A law enforcement officer,  
5 firefighter, wildland firefighter, paramedic, emergency  
6 dispatcher, or emergency medical technician of an emergency  
7 service agency or entity.

8 "(3) PEER SUPPORT EVENT. Any debriefing, defusing,  
9 or coaching session conducted by a certified peer support  
10 member that involves the emotional or moral support of an  
11 emergency responder who needs emotional or moral support as a  
12 result of job-related stress or an incident in which the  
13 emergency responder was involved while acting in his or her  
14 official capacity.

15 "(b) In order to become a certified peer support  
16 member, all of the following must apply:

17 "(1) The person must be an emergency responder or a  
18 chaplain of an emergency service agency.

19 "(2) The person must complete training in critical  
20 stress management or peer support by a recognized training  
21 agency. Recognized training agencies include, ~~but are not~~  
22 ~~limited to,~~ the International Critical Incident Stress  
23 Foundation, the National Organization for Victim Assistance,  
24 the American Red Cross, and the Regional Counterdrug Training  
25 Academy.

26 "(3) The person must be designated in writing by a  
27 sheriff, police chief, fire chief, or other head of a law

1 enforcement agency, fire department, rescue agency, or a  
2 public safety agency to provide peer support services to an  
3 emergency responder or the spouse of an emergency responder.  
4 Only one certified peer support person may be assigned per any  
5 specific peer support event.

6 "(4) Law enforcement officers, emergency  
7 dispatchers, or persons assigned to be a chaplain by an  
8 emergency service agency, must be certified by the Alabama  
9 State Law Enforcement Agency. Firefighters, wildland  
10 firefighters, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians of  
11 an emergency service agency or entity, or persons assigned to  
12 be a chaplain by an emergency service agency, must be  
13 certified by the Alabama Fire College.

14 "(c) Any communication made by an emergency  
15 responder to a certified peer support member during a peer  
16 support event is privileged. The emergency responder may waive  
17 the privilege. The certified peer support member may not be  
18 compelled to testify or otherwise disclose the contents of any  
19 privileged communication under this section.

20 "(d) A communication made by an emergency responder  
21 to a certified peer support member is not privileged if any of  
22 the following apply:

23 "(1) The certified peer support member was an  
24 initial emergency service responder, a witness, or a party to  
25 the incident that prompted the communication to the certified  
26 peer support member.

1           "(2) The communication reveals the intended  
2       commission of a crime or otherwise harmful act, and the  
3       disclosure of the communication is determined to be necessary  
4       by the certified peer support member to protect any person  
5       from a clear and imminent risk of mental or physical harm or  
6       to forestall a serious threat to public safety.

7           "(3) The communication reveals that a crime was  
8       committed.

9           "(4) A court determines the communications are not  
10      privileged under the exceptions provided in Rule 503(d),  
11      Alabama Rules of Evidence."

12           Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
13      first day of the third month following its passage and  
14      approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-  
ferred to the House of Representa-  
tives committee on Public Safety  
and Homeland Security..... 02-FEB-21  
  
Read for the second time and placed  
on the calendar 1 amendment ..... 10-FEB-21  
  
Read for the third time and passed  
as amended..... 11-MAR-21  
Yeas 101, Nays 0, Abstains 0

Jeff Woodard  
Clerk