



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

February 13, 2024

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H.847 – An act relating to peer support provider and recovery support specialist certification

As introduced by the House Committee on Health Care

Bill Summary

The bill would require the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) to certify peer support providers and recovery support specialists. For OPR to implement this change, it would cost approximately \$25,000 in staff time, technology costs, community outreach costs, and expenses associated with rulemaking.

The bill would require that the Secretary of State appoint six advisors to the Director of OPR in matters relating to peer support and recovery support. Four of the advisors would not be State employees and entitled to per diem compensation under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for attendance at any meeting called by the Director. Costs for per diem compensation would be nominal (less than \$2,000 per year). The other two advisors, one from the Department of Health and one from the Department of Mental Health, would be acting within the scope of their positions and not receive per diem compensation.

The bill would also require application and licensure fees similar to those for other professions OPR regulates. There would be an initial certification fee of \$115, which is already set in statute, and \$50 biennial renewal fee included in Sec. 2 of the bill.¹ However, given that it is unknown how many peer support providers and recovery support specialists are or would be practicing in the state, when the fees would be instituted, and when it would be collected, revenues from licensure and application fees cannot be estimated at this time.

Background and Details

Peer Support Providers – At this time, it not known how many peer support providers there are in Vermont. It is estimated that the State employs 82 peer support providers, 66 of whom work in staff positions and 12 of whom work in supervisory positions. Designated agencies also employ peer support providers, but at this time it is not known how many.

Recovery Support Specialists – According to the Department of Health, as of April 2023, there were 58 certified recovery coaches and 67 non-certified recovery coaches working in Vermont recovery centers.²

¹ 3 V.S.A. § 125(b)(2)

² Follow-up witness [testimony](#) provided by Brendan Atwood, Public Policy Director, Vermont Department of Health.

Fiscal Impact Summary

- Estimated cost to OPR to implement = \$25,000
- Per diem compensation for appointed non-State employee advisors = \$2,000
- Estimated fee revenue = N/A