



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE  
**Joint Fiscal Office**

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## Fiscal Note

3/31/2022

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### **S.195 – an act relating to the certification of mental health peer support specialists**

*As passed by the Senate*

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0195/S-0195%20As%20Passed%20by%20the%20Senate%20Unofficial.pdf>

#### **Bill Summary**

The bill proposes to establish a mental health peer support specialist certification program. It would also require the Agency of Human Services (AHS) to include a funding request for peer-operated respite models and community centers in subsequent budget proposals to the extent specific findings are determined by the Agency.

#### **Sec. 2 – Peer Support Specialist Certification Program**

- Sec. 2 would require the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to enter into an agreement with a peer-run or peer-led entity to develop a statewide certification program for peer support specialists in accordance with guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the purpose of enabling a certified mental health peer support specialist to receive Medicaid reimbursement for the individual's services.
- It is estimated that the development of a statewide peer support specialist program could cost as much as \$75,000 in one-time costs.
- There is no FY 2023 appropriation for this section in the bill as passed by the Senate.

#### **Sec. 4 – Peer-Operated Respite and Community Centers**

- Sec. 4 would require AHS to include a funding request for peer-operated respite models and community centers in subsequent budget proposals to the extent that AHS finds the following:
  - that additional peer-operated respite centers and community centers should be developed with State Medicaid matching funds to provide necessary capacity; and
  - that viable proposals with demonstrable community support are advanced and the Agency finds that these proposals will reduce other State program costs.
- There is no FY 2023 appropriation required in the bill. AHS could propose funding in future budgets.

## Fiscal Summary

- Sec. 2 would require DMH to enter into an agreement with a private entity to develop a statewide certification program for peer support specialists. This contract could cost as much as \$75,000 in one-time funds. There is no FY 2023 appropriation for this section in the bill.
- Sec. 4 could have out-year costs to the extent that AHS includes a funding request in future budgets for peer-operated respite models and community centers. There is no FY 2023 appropriation required for this section.