

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 314

BY REPRESENTATIVES LARVADAIN, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGLEY, BOYD, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARPENTER, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, COX, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FISHER, FONTENOT, GAINES, GAROFALO, HODGES, HORTON, HUGHES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, JORDAN, KNOX, LAFLEUR, LYONS, MOORE, NEWELL, PHELPS, PIERRE, SEABAUGH, SELDERS, STAGNI, THOMPSON, WHITE, AND WILLARD

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

EVIDENCE: Provides relative to trained peer support members

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Code of Evidence Article 518(B) and R.S. 40:2411(C)(6) and (7),
3 relative to trained peer support; to provide for firefighters as trained peer support
4 members; to provide for peer support training by certain organizations; to provide
5 for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. Code of Evidence Article 518(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read
8 as follows:

9 Art. 518. Trained peer support member privilege

10 * * *

11 B. For purposes of this Section, a "trained peer support member" is ~~an~~
12 emergency any of the following persons or entities that provide emotional and moral
13 support or counseling to an emergency responder who needs those services as a
14 result of an incident in which the emergency responder was involved while acting
15 in his official capacity:

16 (1) An emergency responder or civilian volunteer of an emergency service
17 agency or entity, who has received training in Critical Incident Stress Management
18 ~~to provide emotional and moral support to an emergency responder who needs those~~

1 ~~services as a result of an incident in which the emergency responder was involved~~
2 ~~while acting in his official capacity.~~

3 (2) ~~A "trained peer support member" also includes a volunteer counselor or~~
4 ~~other mental health services provider who has been designated by the emergency~~
5 ~~service agency or entity to provide emotional and moral support and counseling to~~
6 ~~an emergency responder who needs those services as a result of an incident in which~~
7 ~~the emergency responder was involved while acting in his official capacity.~~

8 (3) A firefighter who has received peer support training from the
9 International Association of Fire Fighters.

10 Section 2. R.S. 40:2411(C)(6) and (7) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
11 follows:

12 §2411. Peace Officer and Public Safety Personnel Peer Support and Mental Health
13 and Wellness Act

14 * * *

15 C. Definitions. For purposes of this Section:

16 * * *

17 (6) "Peer support training" means training in peer support and critical
18 incident stress conducted by the Southern Law Enforcement Foundation, the
19 International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc., the International Association
20 of Fire Fighters, or an equivalent program as approved by the executive director of
21 the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal
22 Justice.

23 (7) "Public safety personnel" means a firefighter or an employee of a
24 governmental entity who, by virtue of his job duties, provides support to peace
25 officers, including but not limited to a dispatcher, public safety telecommunicator as
26 defined in R.S. 40:1131, crime scene and crime laboratory technician, and criminal
27 analyst.

28 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 314 Reengrossed

2023 Regular Session

Larvadain

Abstract: Provides relative to trained peer support members to include firefighters within its definition.

Present law (C.E. Art. 518) includes individuals such as a person who provides emotional and moral support to an emergency responder, an emergency responder, or civilian volunteer in its definition of trained peer support member.

Proposed law (C.E. 518 (B)(3)) expands present law to include firefighters.

Present law (R.S. 40:2411(C)(6)) defines "peer support training" as training in peer support and critical incident stress conducted by the Southern Law Enforcement Foundation, the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc., or an equivalent program as approved by the executive director of the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

Proposed law (R.S. 40:2411(C)(6)) expands the present law definition to include the International Association of Fire Fighters Peer Support Training.

Present law (R.S. 40:2411(C)(7)) defines "public safety personnel" as an employee of a governmental agency who provides support to peace officers such as a dispatcher, public safety telecommunicator, crime scene and laboratory technician, and criminal analyst.

Proposed law (R.S. 40:2411(C)(7)) expands the present law definition to include firefighters.

(Amends C.E. Art. 518(B) and R.S. 40:2411(C)(6) and (7))