

ACT No. 23

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

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

21 (2) A ~~"trained peer support member"~~ also includes a volunteer counselor or
22 other mental health services provider who has been designated by the emergency
23 service agency or entity ~~to provide emotional and moral support and counseling to~~

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

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

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

7 §2411. Peace Officer and Public Safety Personnel Peer Support and Mental Health
8 and Wellness Act

9 * * *

10 C. Definitions. For purposes of this Section:

11 * * *

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____