



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 342

LCO No. 2117



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF
COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN PEER SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS
AND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION OFFICERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 52-146v of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Peer support team member" means any person engaged in
5 directing or staffing any peer support program established by an
6 employer for the benefit of an employee who is a first responder;

7 (2) "First responder" means: Any peace officer, as defined in section
8 53a-3; any firefighter, as defined in section 7-313g; any person employed
9 as a firefighter by a private employer; any ambulance driver, emergency
10 medical responder, emergency medical technician, advanced
11 emergency medical technician or paramedic, as defined in section 19a-
12 175; [and] any telecommunicator, as defined in section 28-30, and any
13 officer of the Department of Correction; and

14 (3) "Confidential communications" means all oral and written
15 communications transmitted in confidence between a first responder
16 and a peer support team member in the course of participation in an
17 employer established peer support program and all records prepared
18 by a peer support team member related to such first responder's
19 participation in such program.

20 (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, and unless the
21 first responder making the confidential communication waives the
22 privilege, no peer support team member shall disclose any confidential
23 communications (1) to any third person, other than a person to whom
24 disclosure is reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of the
25 purposes for which such member is consulted, (2) in any civil or
26 criminal case or proceeding, or (3) in any legislative or administrative
27 proceeding.

28 (c) No person in any civil or criminal case or proceeding or in any
29 legislative or administrative proceeding may request or require
30 information from any first responder relating to the first responder's
31 participation in a peer support program, including whether or not such
32 first responder at any time participated in such peer support program.

33 (d) Consent of a first responder shall not be required for the
34 disclosure of such first responder's confidential communications:

35 (1) Where mandated by any other provision of the general statutes;

36 (2) Where a peer support team member believes in good faith that the
37 failure to disclose such confidential communications presents a clear
38 and present danger to any individual, including the first responder; and

39 (3) Where the peer support team member was a witness or party to
40 an incident that resulted in the delivery of peer support services to the
41 first responder.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2024	52-146v
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Statement of Purpose:

To provide confidentiality for communications between peer support team members and Department of Correction officers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]