# Second Regular Session Seventy-second General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

## **INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 20-0434.01 Jane Ritter x4342

**HOUSE BILL 20-1139** 

#### **HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

Pelton and Caraveo,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

#### **House Committees**

101

102

**Senate Committees** 

Public Health Care & Human Services Finance Appropriations

#### A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING SUPPORTING THE PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE.

### **Bill Summary**

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <a href="http://leg.colorado.gov">http://leg.colorado.gov</a>.)

The bill adds definitions for "peer support professional" and "recovery support services organization" for the purposes of permissible claims submitted for reimbursement under the medical services program. A recovery support services organization (recovery organization) may bill and submit for reimbursement certain eligible peer support services (support services) provided by peer support professionals. The department

of human services (department) is responsible for approving a recovery support services organization for reimbursement for support services. The bill sets forth detailed criteria for approval by the department, and the department is given rule-making authority to establish other criteria and standards as necessary.

The bill creates a refundable income tax credit available for income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2021, but before January 1, 2031, for eligible peer support professionals (eligible individuals) who have worked in Colorado at least part-time for at least 3 years in the behavioral health sector and who either return to school or who graduate and return to work in the public or private health care sector. The tax credit is available for 4 consecutive years for eligible individuals who return to school and for 3 consecutive years for eligible individuals who return to work after attending school. The office of behavioral health in the department of human services (office) shall, in conjunction with the department of human services, review documentation supplied by eligible individuals seeking the tax credit and provide certification to the department of revenue if eligibility criteria for the tax credit is met. The office may not issue tax credit certificates that total more than \$100,000 per income tax year.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 27-60-108 as

3 follows:

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27-60-108. Reimbursement for eligible peer support services
 requirements - rules - definitions. (1) As used in this section,
 UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

- (a) "MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" MEANS THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN ARTICLES 4, 5, AND 6 OF TITLE 25.5.
  - (b) "PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL" MEANS A PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST, RECOVERY COACH, PEER AND FAMILY RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALIST, PEER MENTOR, FAMILY ADVOCATE, OR FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATOR. A PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL IS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND SELF-IDENTIFIES AS HAVING EXPERIENCED THE PROCESS OF RECOVERY FROM A MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER, SUBSTANCE USE

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I	DISORDER, TRAUMA, OR ONE OR ALL OF SUCH CONDITIONS, EITHER AS A
2	CONSUMER OF RECOVERY SERVICES OR AS THE PARENT OR A FAMILY
3	MEMBER OF THE CONSUMER. A PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL PROVIDES
4	NONCLINICAL SUPPORT SERVICES THAT ALIGN WITH RECOMMENDATIONS
5	FROM THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
6	ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
7	HUMAN SERVICES. A PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL ENGAGES INDIVIDUALS
8	IN PEER-TO-PEER RELATIONSHIPS THAT SUPPORT HEALING, PERSONAL
9	GROWTH, LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, SELF-CARE, AND CRISIS-STRATEGY
10	DEVELOPMENT TO HELP ACHIEVE RECOVERY, WELLNESS, AND LIFE GOALS.
11	A PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL HAS FORMAL TRAINING IN ALL CONTENT
12	AREAS OUTLINED IN THE CORE COMPETENCIES FOR PEER SUPPORT
13	PROFESSIONALS BY THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH
14	SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
15	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.
16	(c) "RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN
17	ORGANIZATION LED AND GOVERNED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL
18	COMMUNITIES OF RECOVERY. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE
19	DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE ALL RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES
20	ORGANIZATIONS. RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE
21	RECOVERY-FOCUSED SERVICES AND SUPPORTS, INCLUDING:
22	(I) PEER-DELIVERED SUPPORT SERVICES;
23	(II) PEER-RUN DROP-IN CENTERS, RECOVERY AND WELLNESS
24	CENTERS, AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES;
25	(III) PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES;
26	(IV) PEER MENTORING FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS;
27	(V) PATIENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS;

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1	(VI) WARM LINES; AND
2	(VII) ADVOCACY SERVICES.
3	(2) On or before January 1, 2022, a recovery support
4	SERVICES ORGANIZATION, AS DEFINED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION
5	THAT IS ENROLLED IN THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MAY SERVE AS
6	THE RENDERING PROVIDER FOR CLAIMS SUBMITTED FOR SERVICES
7	PERFORMED BY A RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES ORGANIZATION BY A PEER
8	SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL. A RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES ORGANIZATION
9	MAY BILL FOR ELIGIBLE SERVICES, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c) OF
10	THIS SECTION, INCLUDING THOSE ALLOWED UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF
11	HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING'S COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
12	SERVICES PROGRAM WAIVER.
13	(3) A RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES ORGANIZATION THAT IS
14	ENROLLED IN THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MAY EMPLOY AND BE
15	THE RENDERING PROVIDER FOR CLAIMS SUBMITTED BY PEER SUPPORT
16	PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN VARIOUS CLINICAL AND NONCLINICAL
17	SETTINGS, INCLUDING:
18	(a) JUSTICE-INVOLVED SETTINGS;
19	(b) PHYSICAL HEALTH SETTINGS, SUCH AS PEDIATRICIAN OR
20	OBSTETRIC AND GYNECOLOGICAL HEALTH CARE OFFICES;
21	(c) EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS;
22	(d) COMMUNITIES WITH PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS:
23	AND
24	(e) PEER RESPITE HOMES.
25	(4) On or before July 1, 2021, in approving a recovery
26	SUPPORT SERVICES ORGANIZATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT PURSUANT TO
27	THIS SECTION, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUIRE:

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1	(a) THE RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES ORGANIZATION TO EMPLOY
2	OR CONTRACT WITH A LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER WHO IS IN
3	GOOD STANDING AND CAN DEMONSTRATE TRAINING IN SUPERVISING PEER
4	SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS;
5	(b) THE RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES ORGANIZATION TO HAVE AN
6	ESTABLISHED PROCESS BY WHICH THE ORGANIZATION COORDINATES ITS
7	SERVICES WITH THOSE RENDERED BY OTHER AGENCIES TO ENSURE AN
8	UNINTERRUPTED CONTINUUM OF CARE TO PERSONS WITH BEHAVIORAL
9	HEALTH DISORDERS; AND
10	(c) RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS AND PEER
11	SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS TO MEET ANY OTHER STANDARDS AS
12	DETERMINED BY RULE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
13	(5) The state department shall promulgate rules
14	ESTABLISHING MINIMUM STANDARDS THAT RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES
15	ORGANIZATIONS MUST MEET IN ADDITION TO THOSE OUTLINED IN
16	SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION.
17	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 39-22-543 as
18	follows:
19	39-22-543. Peer support professional income tax credit -
20	report - rules - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.
21	(1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:
22	(I) PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ARE IMPORTANT PROFESSIONALS
23	WHO HELP OTHERS ACHIEVE RECOVERY AND WELLNESS;
24	(II) THE USE OF PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS IS CONSIDERED TO
25	REDUCE HOSPITALIZATIONS BY HALF, INCREASE ENGAGEMENT IN
26	SELF-CARE AND WELLNESS, AND DECREASE PSYCHOTIC SYMPTOMS IN
27	PEOPLE IN TREATMENT;

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1	(III) OTHER STATES HAVE FOUND THAT USING THE SERVICES OF
2	PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS FOR PEOPLE IN TREATMENT SAVES AN
3	AVERAGE OF NEARLY FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS PER
4	PERSON;
5	(IV) HOWEVER, IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE
6	IN COLORADO WHO DID NOT RECEIVE NECESSARY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
7	SERVICES NEARLY DOUBLED, WITH MANY AREAS OF THE STATE CITING
8	WORKFORCE CHALLENGES AS THE LEADING CAUSE FOR UNMET NEED. PEER
9	SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS CAN HELP FILL THAT WORKFORCE NEED.
10	(V) PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ARE OFTEN POORLY PAID BUT
11	WORK WITH THE MOST ACUTE AND VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS IN
12	TREATMENT. AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PEER SUPPORTERS
13	FOUND THAT MORE THAN EIGHTY PERCENT WERE INTERESTED IN
14	CONTINUED JOB TRAINING AND NEARLY FORTY-FIVE PERCENT SAID THEY
15	EXPECTED TO STAY IN THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FIELD.
16	(VI) WITHOUT CONTINUING EDUCATION, PEER SUPPORT
17	PROFESSIONALS WILL REACH A PROFESSIONAL CEILING RESULTING IN
18	POTENTIAL BURNOUT AND LEAVING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SECTOR.
19	(b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS IN
20	THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE TO SUPPORT THE PEER SUPPORT
21	PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE BY MAKING AVAILABLE AN INCOME TAX
22	CREDIT FOR PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WHO MEET ESTABLISHED
23	CRITERIA.
24	(2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
25	REQUIRES:
26	(a) "Behavioral health care provider" means a
27	PROFESSIONAL WHO PROVIDES BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN

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1	THE PROFESSIONAL'S SCOPE OF PRACTICE. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE
2	PROVIDER" INCLUDES:
3	(I) A LICENSED ADDICTION COUNSELOR;
4	(II) A CERTIFIED ADDICTION COUNSELOR;
5	(III) A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR;
6	(IV) A LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER;
7	(V) A LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST; AND
8	(VI) A LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST.
9	(b) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE.
10	(c) "Eligible peer support professional" means an
11	INDIVIDUAL WHO IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED IN THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
12	SECTOR AS A PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OR WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN
13	EMPLOYED WITHIN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS IN THE BEHAVIORAL
14	HEALTH SECTOR AS A PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL. AN ELIGIBLE PEER
15	SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL SHALL ALSO MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA OF
16	EITHER SUBSECTION $(2)(c)(I)$ OR $(2)(c)(II)$ OF THIS SECTION:
17	(I) (A) HAS BEEN EMPLOYED IN COLORADO AS A PEER SUPPORT
18	PROFESSIONAL AT LEAST PART-TIME IN THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SECTOR
19	FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE YEARS; AND
20	(B) IS MATRICULATING AT THE UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE
21	LEVEL FROM AN ACCREDITED COLORADO INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
22	EDUCATION WITH AT LEAST TWELVE CREDIT HOURS PER ACADEMIC YEAR;
23	OR
24	(II) (A) HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED IN COLORADO AS A
25	PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AT LEAST PART-TIME IN THE BEHAVIORAL
26	HEALTH SECTOR FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE YEARS;
27	(B) HAS GRADUATED AT THE UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE

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- LEVEL FROM AN ACCREDITED COLORADO INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
   EDUCATION; AND
- 3 (C) WAS SUBSEQUENTLY EMPLOYED IN COLORADO AT LEAST
  4 PART-TIME IN THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE HEALTH CARE SECTOR AS A
  5 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.
- 6 (d) "Inflation" means the annual percentage change in the
  7 United States department of Labor's Bureau of Labor statistics
  8 Consumer price index for Denver-Aurora-Lakewood for all
  9 items paid by all urban consumers, or its applicable predecessor
  10 or successor index.

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(e) "PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL" MEANS A PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST, RECOVERY COACH, PEER AND FAMILY RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALIST, PEER MENTOR, FAMILY ADVOCATE, OR FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATOR. A PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL IS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND SELF-IDENTIFIES AS HAVING EXPERIENCED THE PROCESS OF RECOVERY FROM A MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER, SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER, TRAUMA, OR ONE OR ALL OF SUCH CONDITIONS, EITHER AS A CONSUMER OF RECOVERY SERVICES OR AS THE PARENT OR A FAMILY MEMBER OF THE CONSUMER. A PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL PROVIDES NONCLINICAL SUPPORT SERVICES THAT ALIGN WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. A PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL ENGAGES INDIVIDUALS IN PEER-TO-PEER RELATIONSHIPS THAT SUPPORT HEALING, PERSONAL GROWTH, LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, SELF-CARE, AND CRISIS-STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT TO HELP ACHIEVE RECOVERY, WELLNESS, AND LIFE GOALS. A PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL HAS FORMAL TRAINING IN ALL CONTENT

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1	AREAS OUTLINED IN THE CORE COMPETENCIES FOR PEER SUPPORT
2	PROFESSIONALS BY THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH
3	SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
4	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.
5	(f) "REVIEWING ENTITY" MEANS THE OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL

- (f) "REVIEWING ENTITY" MEANS THE OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.
- 7 (3) (a) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS
  8 SECTION, FOR INCOME TAX YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY
  9 1, 2021, BUT BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2031, AN ELIGIBLE PEER SUPPORT
  10 PROFESSIONAL IS ALLOWED A CREDIT AGAINST THE TAX IMPOSED BY THIS
  11 ARTICLE 22 IN AN AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS.
  - (b) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(II) OF THIS SECTION, AN ELIGIBLE PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL MAY APPLY TO THE REVIEWING ENTITY FOR A TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE. THE APPLYING PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL SHALL PROVIDE ANY DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BY THE REVIEWING ENTITY TO VERIFY THAT HE OR SHE MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION. THE REVIEWING ENTITY SHALL REVIEW THE DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED AND, IF APPROPRIATE, SHALL ISSUE THE ELIGIBLE PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WITH A TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE; EXCEPT THAT THE REVIEWING ENTITY SHALL NOT ISSUE MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN TOTAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES IN AN INCOME TAX YEAR. TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES SHALL BE ISSUED IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY ARE REQUESTED.
  - (II) AN ELIGIBLE PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WHO MEETS THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (2)(c)(I) OF THIS SECTION MAY SEEK A TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE FOR NO MORE THAN FOUR CONSECUTIVE YEARS. AN ELIGIBLE PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WHO MEETS THE

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1	CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION $(2)(c)(II)$ of this section may seek
2	A TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE FOR NO MORE THAN THREE CONSECUTIVE
3	YEARS.
4	(c) TO CLAIM THE CREDIT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE
5	ELIGIBLE PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL SHALL INCLUDE THE CREDIT
6	CERTIFICATE WITH THE INCOME TAX RETURN FILED WITH THE
7	DEPARTMENT.
8	(d) FOR THE INCOME TAX YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER
9	January 1, 2022, the department shall adjust the credit amount
10	SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION TO REFLECT INFLATION
11	FOR EACH INCOME TAX YEAR IN WHICH THE CREDIT DESCRIBED IN THIS
12	SECTION IS ALLOWED.
13	(e) AN ELIGIBLE PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL IS ALLOWED ONE
14	CREDIT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION PER YEAR.
15	(4) THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT ALLOWED PURSUANT TO THIS
16	SECTION THAT EXCEEDS THE ELIGIBLE PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL'S
17	INCOME TAXES DUE IS REFUNDED TO THE ELIGIBLE PEER SUPPORT
18	PROFESSIONAL.
19	(5) The reviewing entity shall track all the credit
20	CERTIFICATES ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IN EACH INCOME TAX
21	YEAR IN ORDER TO DETERMINE:
22	(a) HOW MANY CREDIT CERTIFICATES HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO EACH
23	ELIGIBLE PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL SO THAT THE MAXIMUM NUMBER
24	OF CREDITS ISSUED PER PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL SET FORTH IN
25	SUBSECTION (3)(b)(II) OF THIS SECTION ARE NOT EXCEEDED; AND
26	(b) When the total amount of credit certificates issued
27	EQUALS ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS DED INCOME TAY VEAD

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1	(6) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, WITH INPUT FROM THE
2	REVIEWING ENTITY, SHALL PROMULGATE RULES CONCERNING THE
3	DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION AND ANY
4	OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
5	OF THIS SECTION.
6	(7) THE REVIEWING ENTITY SHALL PROVIDE AN ANNUAL REPORT
7	TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT SPECIFIES THE NAME AND SOCIAL SECURITY
8	NUMBER OF EACH ELIGIBLE PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WHO WAS ISSUED
9	A TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS
10	SECTION.
11	(8) On or before July 1, 2030, the reviewing entity, in
12	CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, SHALL
13	SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF
14	THE SENATE AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES
15	COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
16	COMMITTEES. THE REPORT MUST PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE NUMBER
17	AND TYPES OF PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WHO WERE ISSUED A TAX
18	CREDIT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING
19	INFORMATION:
20	(a) TOTAL NUMBER OF TAX CREDITS ISSUED PER YEAR;
21	(b) Types of study areas pursued;
22	(c) AVERAGE NUMBER OF TAX CREDITS CLAIMED PER INDIVIDUAL;
23	(d) COMMON ISSUES OR BARRIERS ENCOUNTERED IN PROVIDING
24	DOCUMENTATION FOR A TAX CREDIT; AND
25	(e) ANY INFORMATION OR RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE
26	TAX CREDIT PROGRAM FOR PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS.
27	(9) This section is repealed, effective December 31, 2034.

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SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act
takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a
referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

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