

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 19-0414.01 Yelana Love x2295

**SENATE BILL 19-065**

---

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Garcia,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

---

**Senate Committees**

Health & Human Services  
Finance

**House Committees**

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE**  
102 **PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS.**

---

**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 <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill creates a peer health assistance program (program) for emergency medical service providers funded through fees collected from each applicant upon initial or renewal of a certification as an emergency medical service provider. The state board of health (board) is required to select one or more peer health assistance programs as designated providers. To be selected as a provider, the program must:

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

- ! Provide for the education of emergency medical service providers with respect to the recognition and prevention of physical, emotional, and psychological problems and provide for intervention when necessary or under circumstances that may be established by rules promulgated by the board;
- ! Offer assistance to an emergency medical service provider in identifying physical, emotional, or psychological problems;
- ! Evaluate the extent of physical, emotional, or psychological problems and refer the emergency medical service provider for appropriate treatment;
- ! Monitor the status of an emergency medical service provider who has been referred for treatment;
- ! Provide counseling and support for the emergency medical service provider and for the family of any emergency medical service provider referred for treatment;
- ! Agree to receive referrals from the board; and
- ! Agree to make services available to all certified emergency medical service providers.

---

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 25-3.5-207** as  
 3 follows:

4           **25-3.5-207. Emergency medical service providers' peer health**  
 5 **assistance program - rules.** (1) AS A CONDITION OF INITIAL  
 6 CERTIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION RENEWAL, EVERY APPLICANT SHALL  
 7 PAY TO THE DEPARTMENT, AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION, AN AMOUNT SET  
 8 BY THE BOARD, WHICH MAY BE ADJUSTED ON JANUARY 1, 2021, AND  
 9 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY THE BOARD TO REFLECT:

10           (a) CHANGES IN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,  
 11 BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR  
 12 DENVER-AURORA-LAKEWOOD, OR ITS SUCCESSOR INDEX; AND

13           (b) OVERALL UTILIZATION OF THE PROGRAM.

14           (2) THE FEE IMPOSED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS

1 SECTION IS TO SUPPORT DESIGNATED PROVIDERS THE DEPARTMENT  
2 SELECTS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE  
3 PROVIDERS NEEDING HELP IN DEALING WITH PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, OR  
4 PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS THAT MAY BE DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR  
5 ABILITY TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

6 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEPOSIT THE FEES COLLECTED  
7 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IN THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PEER  
8 ASSISTANCE FUND, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "FUND", WHICH  
9 IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY. MONEY IN THE FUND IS NOT  
10 SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE  
11 STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED  
12 FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE FUND TO THE  
13 FUND.

14 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT ONE OR MORE PEER HEALTH  
15 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AS DESIGNATED PROVIDERS. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR  
16 DESIGNATION BY THE DEPARTMENT, A PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE  
17 PROGRAM MUST:

18 (a) PROVIDE FOR THE EDUCATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
19 SERVICE PROVIDERS WITH RESPECT TO THE RECOGNITION AND PREVENTION  
20 OF PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND  
21 PROVIDE FOR INTERVENTION WHEN NECESSARY OR UNDER  
22 CIRCUMSTANCES THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY ESTABLISH BY RULE;

23 (b) OFFER ASSISTANCE TO AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE  
24 PROVIDER IN IDENTIFYING PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, OR PSYCHOLOGICAL  
25 CONDITIONS;

26 (c) EVALUATE THE EXTENT OF PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, OR  
27 PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND REFER THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL

1 SERVICE PROVIDER FOR APPROPRIATE TREATMENT;

2 (d) MONITOR THE STATUS OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE  
3 PROVIDER WHO HAS BEEN REFERRED FOR TREATMENT;

4 (e) PROVIDE COUNSELING AND SUPPORT FOR THE EMERGENCY  
5 MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER AND FOR THE FAMILY OF ANY EMERGENCY  
6 MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER REFERRED FOR TREATMENT;

7 (f) AGREE TO RECEIVE REFERRALS FROM THE DEPARTMENT; AND

8 (g) AGREE TO MAKE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ALL CERTIFIED  
9 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS.

10 (5) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SELECT AN ENTITY TO ADMINISTER THE  
11 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE  
12 PROGRAM. THE ADMINISTERING ENTITY MUST BE A NONPROFIT PRIVATE  
13 FOUNDATION THAT IS QUALIFIED UNDER SECTION 501 (c)(3) OF THE  
14 FEDERAL "INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986", AS AMENDED, AND IS  
15 DEDICATED TO PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR CHARITABLE, BENEVOLENT,  
16 EDUCATIONAL, AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES THAT ARE RELATED TO  
17 MEDICINE, MEDICAL EDUCATION, MEDICAL RESEARCH AND SCIENCE, AND  
18 OTHER MEDICAL CHARITABLE PURPOSES.

19 (6) THE ADMINISTERING ENTITY SHALL:

20 ==

21 (a) DISTRIBUTE THE MONEY COLLECTED FROM THE DEPARTMENT,  
22 LESS EXPENSES, TO AN APPROVED DESIGNATED PROVIDER, AS DIRECTED BY  
23 THE DEPARTMENT;

24 (b) PROVIDE AN ANNUAL ACCOUNTING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
25 ALL AMOUNTS COLLECTED, EXPENSES INCURRED, AND AMOUNTS  
26 DISBURSED; AND

27 (c) POST A SURETY PERFORMANCE BOND IN AN AMOUNT SPECIFIED

1 BY THE DEPARTMENT TO SECURE PERFORMANCE UNDER THE  
2 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION. THE ADMINISTERING ENTITY MAY  
3 RECOVER THE ACTUAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED IN PERFORMING  
4 ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS SECTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TEN  
5 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED.

6  
7 (7) ANY CERTIFICATE HOLDER MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT  
8 FOR PARTICIPATION IN A QUALIFIED PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.  
9 IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION, A CERTIFICATE HOLDER  
10 SHALL:

11 (a) ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE OR THE POTENTIAL EXISTENCE  
12 OF A PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, OR EMOTIONAL CONDITION; EXCESSIVE  
13 ALCOHOL OR DRUG USE; OR AN ALCOHOL USE DISORDER, AS DEFINED IN  
14 SECTION 27-81-102 (1), OR A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER, AS DEFINED IN  
15 SECTION 27-82-102 (13.5);

16 (b) AFTER A FULL EXPLANATION OF THE OPERATION AND  
17 REQUIREMENTS OF THE PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AGREE TO  
18 VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM AND AGREE IN WRITING TO  
19 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM OF THE PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE  
20 ORGANIZATION DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

21 (8) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE  
22 DEPARTMENT MAY SUMMARILY SUSPEND THE CERTIFICATION OF ANY  
23 CERTIFICATE HOLDER WHO IS REFERRED TO A PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE  
24 PROGRAM BY THE DEPARTMENT AND WHO FAILS TO ATTEND OR TO  
25 COMPLETE THE PROGRAM. IF A CERTIFICATE HOLDER OBJECTS TO THE  
26 SUSPENSION, THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN REQUEST  
27 TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE FORMAL HEARING ON THE SUSPENSION

1 WITHIN TWO DAYS AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE OF THE SUSPENSION AND THE  
2 DEPARTMENT SHALL GRANT THE REQUEST. IN THE HEARING, THE  
3 CERTIFICATE HOLDER SHALL HAVE THE BURDEN OF PROVING THAT THE  
4 CERTIFICATE HOLDER'S CERTIFICATION SHOULD NOT BE SUSPENDED. THE  
5 HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-4-105.

6 (9) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION CREATES ANY LIABILITY ON THE  
7 DEPARTMENT OR THE STATE OF COLORADO FOR THE ACTIONS OF THE  
8 DEPARTMENT IN MAKING GRANTS TO PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AND  
9 NO CIVIL ACTION MAY BE BROUGHT OR MAINTAINED AGAINST THE  
10 DEPARTMENT OR THE STATE FOR AN INJURY ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN THE  
11 RESULT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF ANY STATE-FUNDED PEER ASSISTANCE  
12 PROGRAM OR THE RESULT OF AN ACT OR OMISSION OF AN EMERGENCY  
13 MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER PARTICIPATING IN OR REFERRED BY A  
14 STATE-FUNDED PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THE STATE  
15 REMAINS LIABLE UNDER THE "COLORADO GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY  
16 ACT", ARTICLE 10 OF TITLE 24, IF AN INJURY ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN THE  
17 RESULT OF AN ACT OR OMISSION OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE  
18 PROVIDER PARTICIPATING IN OR REFERRED BY A STATE-FUNDED PEER  
19 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OCCURRED WHILE THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
20 SERVICE PROVIDER WAS PERFORMING DUTIES AS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE  
21 STATE.

22 (10) THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROMULGATE RULES NECESSARY TO  
23 IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

24 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
25 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
26 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
27 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); except that, if a

1 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
2 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
3 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
4 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
5 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
6 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.