

LFC Requester:	Eric Chenier
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov
(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 1/15/25 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB 74 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Rep. Liz Thomson **Agency Name and Code** HCA 630
Short Title: Firefighter & EMS Provider Peer Support **Number:** _____
Person Writing Annabelle Martinez
Phone: 505-690-2439 **Email** Annabellem.martinez

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A
\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FTE	0	\$119,000	\$119,000	\$238,000	Recurring	SGF/FFP
Training Development	0	\$50,000	0	\$50,000	Nonrecurring	SGF

Training	0	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$22,000	Recurring	SGF
Total		\$180,000	\$130,000	\$310,000	Recurring	SGF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill (HB) 0074 is an act that allows state, local, and regional fire agencies to create peer support programs for their employees. No appropriation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Note: Under the current provisions in HB0074, there would be no fiscal impact to the Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) as written.

However, if the administration of this program were to be moved to BHSD, the following would be the fiscal impact:

- BHSD staff time would be needed with one FTE calculated at a pay band 70 plus .2 FTE of a supervisor's time would be required which would result in a need for \$119,00 total SGF and FFP per FY.
- The cost for specific training for this initiative to be developed and obtain endorsement would be approx. \$50,000.00.
- The cost for the contracted entity to conduct training components would be approx. \$11,000.00 for a total of 5 training courses statewide per year and would need to be supported ongoing to sustain this initiative.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The use of the language of peer support or peer support teams could create confusion with a role of a Certified Peer Support Workers (CPSW), which is a Medicaid billable service. No other peer program can bill Medicaid at this time, so it is recommended the name in the act and the program change to avoid confusion.

Certified Peer Support Worker (CPSW) Definition:

A Certified Peer Support Worker (CPSW) is an individual in recovery with mental health and/or substance use conditions who has successfully completed a training class and passed a certification exam. CPSWs use their experience to inspire hope and instill in others a sense of empowerment. They are trained to deliver an array of support services and to help others identify and navigate systems to aid in recovery. Through wisdom from their own lived experience, they inspire hope and belief that recovery is possible.

It is unclear if these Peers will be employed by the outlined agencies or if assurance that insurance plans other than Medicaid covers Peer Support Services to have these services reimbursed.

The components mentioned as curriculum requirements do not include secondary trauma, motivational interviewing, post-traumatic stress disorder, resilience, or safety planning for suicidal ideation. These evidence-based interventions are highly recommended, demonstrating improved behavioral health outcomes.

If the intention is to train CPSWs and utilize them within fire agencies, the agencies would need to collaborate with BHSD and the Office of Peer Recovery and Engagement (OPRE) to complete the following activities:

- Write the curriculum
- Create the training
- Establish the endorsement with the Credentialing Board
- Vet the applicants for eligibility to participate in the endorsement
- Provide training and certification statewide
- Create establishment of Continuing Education Units (CEU) for requirements for a 2-year recertification period, ongoing

Implementation of this peer type would need approval of endorsement and have oversight from the New Mexico Credentialing Board for Behavioral Health Professionals (NMCBBHP).

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If HB0074 requires the BHSD to partner with State Fire Marshal's office to create a curriculum and oversee this program it would require 1 pay band 70 FTE and .2 FTE of a pay band 75 supervisor's time. The BHSD will need to contract to create, develop the training and contract with the training entity to conduct the training and certifications.

Implementation of this peer type would need approval of endorsement and have oversight from the New Mexico Credentialing Board for Behavioral Health Professionals (NMCBBHP).

No IT impact.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None

TECHNICAL ISSUES

It is unclear if the use of "peers" in the context of HB0074 refers to CPSWs.

The preferred term is "substance use disorder" rather than "substance abuse".

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None

ALTERNATIVES

None

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status Quo

AMENDMENTS

None