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H.B. 545
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 545's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Abrams and Baldrige

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Ryan Sherrock, Economist

Highlights

- If any public employers appoint a peer support team, there could be minimal costs to keep a roster of peer support team members and determine training requirement compliance.

Detailed Analysis

The bill generally prohibits a peer support team member from testifying (1) about communication received from an individual who receives peer support services from the team member, or (2) about the team member's advice to the individual. To receive testimonial privilege, the bill requires a peer support team member to complete at least eight hours of basic peer support training every two years. Also, the bill requires, for the testimonial privilege to apply to a communication made at the scene of and immediately after an incident that involves a substantial risk of serious physical harm to persons, serious physical harm to persons, or the loss of human life, the peer support team member to have provided the peer support services at the request of the recipient and at the direction of the appointing organization. The bill also specifies that an employer or organization that appoints a peer support team may designate certain individuals as an advisor to ensure team members are properly trained and providing proper services. The bill also requires these employers or organizations, or the designated advisors, to keep a roster of the peer support team members and identify whether each team member is in compliance with the training requirements necessary for the testimonial privilege. If any public employers appoint a peer support team, there could be minimal costs to keep such a roster and determine training requirement compliance.

The bill defines a "peer support team member" as an individual who (1) is an active or retired peace officer, firefighter, emergency medical worker, corrections officer, dispatcher, or a civilian employee of an entity employing these individuals, (2) has received at least 16 hours of

basic peer support training that meets specified requirements, and (3) provides peer support services to individuals with similar life experiences as part of an organized group appointed by an employer, union, etc. to provide these services. In addition, “peer support services” means consultation, risk assessment, referral, or onsite intervention services provided by a peer support team member to a team member experiencing symptoms caused by exposure to acute or chronic high stress incidents in the course of the individual’s employment.