

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 96—ASSEMBLYWOMAN COHEN

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to emergency response employees. (BDR 40-96)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to emergency medical services; authorizing a governmental entity which licenses and regulates emergency response employees to enter into a contract with a nonprofit organization to establish a program to provide peer support counseling to emergency response employees who are experiencing mental health issues as a result of the nature of their work; prescribing requirements for such a program; imposing certain duties on the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to the mental health issues experienced by emergency response employees; expanding the applicability of certain provisions relating to emergency response employees to emergency medical dispatchers and law enforcement dispatchers; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law prescribes certain requirements relating to employers of emergency response employees. (NRS 450B.340-450B.390) Existing law defines the term "emergency response employee" to include persons who perform certain duties or who respond to emergencies in this State. (NRS 450B.0703)

Section 6 of this bill authorizes a governmental entity which licenses and regulates emergency response employees, within the limits of available money, to enter into a contract with a nonprofit organization to establish a program to provide peer support counseling to emergency response employees. **Section 6** requires a nonprofit organization that establishes such a program to: (1) establish and operate a toll-free hotline for emergency response employees who are experiencing mental health issues as a result of the nature of their work; (2) establish and maintain a



network of peer support counselors to provide peer support counseling to persons who call the hotline; and (3) establish and maintain an Internet website that provides certain information relating to mental health issues associated with emergency response work. **Section 6** requires the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services to post on an Internet website maintained by the Division certain information concerning support groups for mental health issues and the telephone number of each toll-free hotline established as part of a program to provide peer support counseling to emergency response employees. **Section 6** also requires the Division, to the extent money is available, to: (1) collect information regarding suicide and attempted suicide among emergency response employees; and (2) report any information collected to the Chief Medical Officer. **Section 11.5** of this bill expands the types of employees to whom certain provisions of law relating to emergency response employees, including **section 6**, apply to include emergency medical dispatchers and law enforcement dispatchers.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 450B of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 3. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 4. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 5. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 6. 1. A governmental entity which licenses and regulates emergency response employees may, within the limits of available money, enter into a contract with a nonprofit organization to establish a program to provide peer support counseling to emergency response employees.

2. A nonprofit organization that establishes a program to provide peer support counseling to emergency response employees pursuant to subsection 1 must:

(a) Establish and operate a toll-free hotline for emergency response employees to call if such employees are experiencing mental health issues as a result of the nature of their work.

(b) Establish and maintain a network of peer support counselors to provide peer support counseling to persons who call the toll-free hotline established pursuant to paragraph (a).

(c) Establish and maintain an Internet website that provides:

(1) Information on mental health issues associated with emergency response work, including, without limitation, stress, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, addictive disorders and self-medication; and

(2) Information concerning local and national support groups for mental health issues.



3. *The Division shall post on an Internet website maintained by the Division:*

(a) *The telephone number of each toll-free hotline established pursuant to subsection 2; and*

(b) *Information concerning local and national support groups for mental health issues.*

4. *To the extent money is available, the Division shall collect information regarding suicide and attempted suicide among emergency response employees and report that information to the Chief Medical Officer or his or her designee. Such a report must not include any confidential or privileged information.*

Sec. 7. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 8. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 9. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 10. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 11. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 11.5. NRS 450B.0703 is hereby amended to read as follows:

450B.0703 "Emergency response employee" means a firefighter, attendant, volunteer attendant, emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician, *emergency medical dispatcher*, paramedic, law enforcement officer, correctional officer, other peace officer or person who is employed by an agency of criminal justice, *including, without limitation, a law enforcement dispatcher*, county coroner or medical examiner or any of their employees, any other public employee whose duties may require him or her to come into contact with human blood or bodily fluids or any other person who, in the course of his or her professional duties, responds to emergencies in this State.

Sec. 12. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

