

HOUSE BILL 309

E4

5lr1783
CF SB 326

By: **Delegate Cardin**

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Law Enforcement Agencies – Peer Support Programs**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing certain confidentiality requirements for peer support
4 counseling programs for law enforcement agencies; and generally relating to peer
5 support programs for law enforcement agencies.

6 BY adding to

7 Article – Public Safety

8 Section 3–534

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Public Safety**

14 **3–534.**

15 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
16 **INDICATED.**

17 **(2) “PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM” MEANS A PROGRAM PROVIDED BY A**
18 **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE THAT**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 PROVIDES COUNSELING SERVICES FROM A PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST TO A LAW
2 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.

3 (3) "PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST" MEANS A LAW ENFORCEMENT
4 OFFICER OR A MEMBER OF THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE WHO:

5 (I) HAS RECEIVED TRAINING IN PEER SUPPORT, INCLUDING
6 EMOTIONAL AND MORAL SUPPORT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE
7 BEEN INVOLVED IN OR EXPOSED TO AN EMOTIONALLY TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE IN
8 THE COURSE OF DUTY AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; AND

9 (II) IS DESIGNATED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO
10 PROVIDE THE SERVICES DESCRIBED IN ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

11 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A
12 PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST OR PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT MAY NOT
13 DISCLOSE THE CONTENTS OF ANY WRITTEN OR ORAL COMMUNICATION REGARDING
14 A PEER SUPPORT INTERACTION.

15 (2) PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY IF:

16 (I) THE COMMUNICATION CONTAINS:

17 1. AN EXPLICIT THREAT OF SUICIDE, THE DISCLOSURE
18 OF WHICH THE PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST BELIEVES IS NECESSARY TO AVOID A
19 SUICIDE ATTEMPT;

20 2. AN EXPLICIT THREAT OF IMMINENT AND SERIOUS
21 BODILY HARM OR DEATH TO A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED OR IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL;

22 3. INFORMATION RELATING TO THE ABUSE OR NEGLECT
23 OF A CHILD OR VULNERABLE ADULT, OR ABUSE OR NEGLECT THAT IS OTHERWISE
24 REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED BY LAW; OR

25 4. THE ADMISSION OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT;

26 (II) THE DISCLOSURE IS AUTHORIZED BY EACH PEER SUPPORT
27 PROGRAM PARTICIPANT WHO WAS A PARTY TO THE COMMUNICATION; OR

28 (III) A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION ISSUES AN ORDER
29 OR SUBPOENA REQUIRING THE DISCLOSURE OF THE COMMUNICATION.

1 **(3) BEFORE THE INITIAL PEER SUPPORT INTERACTION WITH A PEER**
2 **SUPPORT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT, A PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST SHALL INFORM**
3 **THE PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT IN WRITING OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY**
4 **PROVISIONS IN THIS SUBSECTION.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.