

# Senate Bill 789

Sponsored by Senator GELSER

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Provides funding to peer-run organizations in Portland metropolitan area, southern Oregon region and eastern and central Oregon region to operate peer respite centers to provide peer respite services to individuals with mental illness who experience acute distress, anxiety or emotional pain. Requires Oregon Health Authority to adopt criteria for peer respite centers that receive funding and to monitor compliance.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to residential peer support for individuals with mental illness who are in crisis; and de-  
3 claring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

### **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

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6 (a) **"Peer respite services"** means voluntary, residential peer support provided in a  
7 home-like setting to individuals with mental illness who are experiencing acute distress,  
8 anxiety or emotional pain that may lead to the need for inpatient hospital services.

9 (b) **"Peer-run organization"** means a nonprofit organization that provides a venue for  
10 support and advocacy among consumers of mental health treatment.

11 (c) **"Peer support"** means assistance provided by individuals who are current or former  
12 consumers of mental health treatment in:

13 (A) **Addressing financial problems and other issues affecting the social determinants of**  
14 **health; and**

15 (B) **Managing trauma using natural supports.**

16 (2) **The Oregon Health Authority shall provide funding to one or more peer-run organ-**  
17 **izations to operate three peer respite centers to complement existing local crisis response**  
18 **services, one each to be located in the Portland metropolitan area, the southern Oregon re-**  
19 **gion and the central and eastern Oregon region. Each peer respite center shall provide up**  
20 **to two weeks of peer respite services to six or fewer individuals.**

21 (3) **The authority shall prescribe by rule the requirements for peer respite centers re-**  
22 **ceiving funding under this section and may require peer respite centers to provide data and**  
23 **other reports to enable the authority to monitor and evaluate the services provided by the**  
24 **peer respite centers.**

25 (4) **The authority shall collaborate with county mental health departments to incorporate**  
26 **peer respite services into the continuum of care provided by the departments to individuals**  
27 **who are experiencing behavioral health crises.**

28 (5) **As a condition of the receipt of funding, peer-run organizations must allow the au-**  
29 **thority access to the peer respite centers to conduct investigations and assessments, as**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 necessary, to ensure that residents receive the quality and scope of services required.

2 **SECTION 2.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-  
3 ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the  
4 General Fund, the amount of \$2.25 million, which shall be expended for providing \$750,000 to  
5 each peer respite center as described in section 1 of this 2019 Act.

6 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this 2019 Act becomes operative on January 1, 2020.

7 **SECTION 4.** This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
8 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect  
9 on its passage.

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