

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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SENATE BILL 995
Judiciary II Committee Substitute Adopted 4/27/99

Short Title: Police Peer Counselor Privilege.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 15, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TESTIMONIAL PRIVILEGE FOR POLICE PEER
SUPPORT GROUP COUNSELORS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Article 7 of Chapter 8 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 8-53.9. Peer support group counselors.

(a) Definitions. The following definitions apply in this section:

- (1) Client law enforcement employee. -- Any law enforcement employee or a member of his or her immediate family who is in need of and receives peer support counseling services offered by the officer's employing law enforcement agency.
- (2) Immediate family. -- A spouse, child, stepchild, parent, or stepparent.
- (3) Peer support group counselor. -- Any law enforcement officer or civilian employee of a law enforcement agency who:
 - a. Has received training to provide emotional and moral support and counseling to client officers and their immediate families;
and
 - b. Was designated by the sheriff, police chief, or other head of a law enforcement agency to counsel a client officer.

- (4) Privileged communication. -- Any communication made by a client law enforcement employee or a member of the client law enforcement employee's immediate family, to a peer support group counselor while receiving counseling.
- (b) No person who is authorized to be a Police Peer Support Group Counselor shall be required to disclose any information