

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB816

Hearing Date: Thursday January 22, 2026
Committee On: Judiciary
Introducer: Storer
One Liner: Provide privileges and immunities relating to peer support services communications by public safety personnel

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Bosn, DeBoer, Hallstrom, Holdcroft, McKinney, Storer, Storm
Nay:		
Absent:	1	Senator Rountree
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Tanya Storer
Deb Hoffman
Max Hubka
Kevin Erickson
Matt Tennant
Raelee Van Winkle

Leah O'Brien
Matthew Jeffrey
Lucas Bolton
Emily Ostliek
Justin Hubly
Dale Hilderbrand

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Nebraska State Patrol
Lincoln Police Department
Self
Omaha Professional Fire Fighters Local #385
Hastings Police; SCALES (South Central Area Law Enforcement Service)
Self
Self
State Troopers Association of Nebraska
Hastings Police Department
Nebraska Association of Public Employees
Grand Island Police Department; Fraternal Order of Police

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 816 establishes a statutory framework for protecting peer support services communications and records for public



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safety personnel and defines key terms governing covered personnel, agencies, and peer support services. The bill provides confidentiality and privilege protections for peer support services communications and related records, making them exempt from public records laws, discovery, and admissibility in legal or disciplinary proceedings, subject to limited exceptions. The bill allows disclosure with written consent, for safety threats, for mandatory abuse reporting, in cases of criminal conduct, or to permit a peer support team member to defend against allegations. The bill grants immunity for disclosures made under those exceptions. It also preserves the admissibility of information obtained independently of peer support services.

Explanation of amendments:

The Committee considered and adopted an amendment (AM 1814) which strikes and replaces the original sections. AM 1814 combines portions of LB 755 and LB 816 into a single proposal establishing and protecting peer support services for public safety personnel. Sections (1) and (3) contain provisions derived from LB 755; and Sections (2) and (4) contain provisions derived from LB 816. In addition, AM 1814 expands the scope of covered “public safety personnel” to include hospital personnel and includes hospitals within the definition of public safety agencies.

Section-by-Section Summary:

Section 1: Section 1 is a new section of law setting forth legislative findings that: (1) public safety personnel routinely experience stress and emotional difficulties due to traumatic events and common job stressors; (2) peer support can mitigate long-term negative effects on well-being; and (3) confidentiality and privilege are essential to effective peer support services because they encourage candor without fear of later use in disciplinary or other proceedings. This section corresponds to LB 755’s legislative findings, with two key adjustments: (1) the terminology is updated from “emergency service employees” to “public safety personnel,” and (2) the findings expressly reference common job stressors in addition to traumatic events.

Section 2: A new section of law that defines the terms used in the bill, identifying the types of communications and proceedings covered, including defining peer support services, teams, training, and personnel, and specifying the public safety agencies and public safety personnel to whom the bill applies. AM 1814 makes several definitional changes, including: (1) adding “hospital personnel” to public safety personnel, which the bill defines to include employees/contractors who provide direct patient care or emergency services, including physicians, nurses, emergency department staff, and trauma center personnel; (2) including hospitals in the definition of “public safety agency”; and (3) clarifying that a peer support team member need not be an employee of or affiliated with a public safety agency and may serve in a volunteer or professional capacity, if properly designated and trained.

Section 3: A new section of law providing that a public safety agency may establish a peer support team and that an agency that does so must develop written guidelines for the team and its members.

Section 4: A new section of law that establishes comprehensive confidentiality and privilege protections for peer support services. It makes peer support communications and related records confidential, privileged, exempt from public records laws, and inadmissible in legal proceedings, subject to limited and clearly defined exceptions. The section permits disclosure only with written consent, for safety and mandatory reporting purposes, or to allow a peer support team member to defend against allegations. This section further provides immunity for required disclosures, protects recipients from compelled examination, allows internal program communications, and clarifies that independently obtained evidence remains discoverable and admissible.



Carolyn Bosn, Chairperson



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