

## **Proposed Conceptual Amendment for A.B. 96**

*Prepared by the Legal Division for Assemblywoman Cohen*

1. Remove sections 1-12 of the bill.
2. Add a section authorizing a governmental entity which licenses and regulates first responders to enter into a contract with a nonprofit organization to carry out a program to provide peer support counseling for first responders.

*1. A governmental entity which licenses and regulates first responders may, within the limits of available money, enter into a contract or other agreement with a nonprofit organization to carry out a program to provide peer support counseling for first responders.*

*2. If the services of a nonprofit organization are contracted for pursuant to subsection 1, the contract must require that the nonprofit organization:*

*(a) Establish and operate a toll-free hotline for first responders to call if such persons 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 and operated by the nonprofit organization; and*

*(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, addictive disorders and self-medication; and*

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

3. Require 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 information concerning peer support services available to first responders.
4. To the extent of money available, require the Division to collect and report certain information relating to suicide or suicide attempts by first responders to the Chief Medical Officer.