

ASSEMBLY, No. 1766

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman NANCY F. MUNOZ

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes minimum level of domestic violence training for judges and judicial personnel.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/8/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning domestic violence training for judges and
2 judicial personnel and amending P.L.1991, c.261.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 4 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-20) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 4. a. (1) The Division of Criminal Justice shall develop and
10 approve a training course and curriculum on the handling,
11 investigation and response procedures concerning reports of
12 domestic violence and abuse and neglect of the elderly and
13 disabled. This training course and curriculum shall be reviewed at
14 least every two years and modified by the Division of Criminal
15 Justice from time to time as need may require. The Division of
16 Criminal Justice shall distribute the curriculum to all local police
17 agencies.

18 (2) The Attorney General shall be responsible for ensuring that
19 all law enforcement officers attend initial training within 90 days of
20 appointment or transfer and annual inservice training of at least four
21 hours as described in this section.

22 b. (1) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall develop
23 and approve a training course consisting of at least three hours, and
24 a curriculum therefor, for Superior Court and municipal court
25 judges and judicial personnel on the handling, investigation and
26 response procedures concerning allegations of domestic violence.
27 This training course shall be reviewed at least every two years and
28 modified by the Administrative Office of the Courts from time to
29 time as need may require.

30 (2) The Administrative Director of the Courts shall be
31 responsible for ensuring that all judges and judicial personnel attend
32 initial training within 90 days of appointment or transfer and annual
33 inservice training as described in this section.

34 (3) The Division of Criminal Justice and the Administrative
35 Office of the Courts shall provide that all training on the handling
36 of domestic violence matters shall include information concerning
37 the impact of domestic violence on society, the dynamics of
38 domestic violence, the statutory and case law concerning domestic
39 violence, the necessary elements of a protection order, policies and
40 procedures as promulgated or ordered by the Attorney General or
41 the Supreme Court, and the use of available community resources,
42 support services, available sanctions and treatment options. Law
43 enforcement agencies shall: (1) establish domestic crisis teams or
44 participate in established domestic crisis teams, and (2) shall train
45 individual officers in methods of dealing with domestic violence

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 and neglect and abuse of the elderly and disabled. The teams may
2 include social workers, clergy or other persons trained in
3 counseling, crisis intervention or in the treatment of domestic
4 violence and neglect and abuse of the elderly and disabled victims.
5 (cf: P.L.1999, c.433, s.1)

6
7 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
8
9

10 STATEMENT
11

12 This bill amends the existing statutory requirement concerning
13 domestic violence training for judges and judicial personnel.
14 Presently, while section 4 of P.L. 1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-20) requires
15 all judges and judicial personnel to receive some initial and annual
16 training, no minimum amount of training is required by statute.

17 Although the Supreme Court provides and requires a substantial
18 amount of domestic violence training for Judges of the Superior
19 Court, Family Division, judges at the municipal court level hearing
20 domestic violence cases have no minimum hours of training
21 requirement.

22 This bill directs the Administrative Office of the Courts to
23 develop and approve a training course and a curriculum, with the
24 training course consisting of at least three hours, for all judges and
25 judicial personnel. This will to ensure that judges and judicial
26 personnel at all levels, including at the municipal court level,
27 receive at least this level of training.