

# SENATE, No. 382

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LORETTA WEINBERG**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Senator TROY SINGLETON**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Brown and Corrado**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires uniform response procedures for all domestic crisis teams established or participated in by law enforcement agencies, and strengthens Statewide supervision over teams.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning the training and oversight of domestic crisis  
2 teams established or participated in by law enforcement  
3 agencies, and amending P.L.1991, c.261.  
4

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

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

10 4. a. (1) The Division of Criminal Justice shall develop and  
11 approve a training course and curriculum on the handling,  
12 investigation and response procedures concerning reports of  
13 domestic violence and abuse and neglect of the elderly and  
14 disabled. This training course and curriculum shall include  
15 response procedures to be followed by all domestic crisis teams  
16 established or participated in by law enforcement agencies pursuant  
17 to paragraph (3) of subsection b. of this section. The training  
18 course and curriculum shall be reviewed at least every two years  
19 and modified by the Division of Criminal Justice from time to time  
20 as need may require. The Division of Criminal Justice shall  
21 distribute the curriculum to all local police agencies.

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

26 b. (1) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall develop  
27 and approve a training course and a curriculum on the handling,  
28 investigation and response procedures concerning allegations of  
29 domestic violence. This training course shall be reviewed at least  
30 every two years and modified by the Administrative Office of the  
31 Courts from time to time as need may require.

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

36 (3) The Division of Criminal Justice and the Administrative  
37 Office of the Courts shall provide that all training on the handling  
38 of domestic violence matters shall include information concerning  
39 the impact of domestic violence on society, the dynamics of  
40 domestic violence, the statutory and case law concerning domestic  
41 violence, the necessary elements of a protection order, policies and  
42 procedures as promulgated or ordered by the Attorney General or  
43 the Supreme Court, and the use of available community resources,  
44 support services, available sanctions and treatment options. Law  
45 enforcement agencies, under the supervision of the Division of

**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 Criminal Justice, shall: **[(1)]** (a) establish domestic crisis teams or  
2 participate in established domestic crisis teams, which shall be  
3 made available to victims whenever law enforcement responds to  
4 reports of domestic violence and abuse and neglect of the elderly  
5 and disabled; and **[(2) shall]** (b) train, in accordance with the  
6 training course and curriculum developed pursuant to paragraph (1)  
7 of subsection a. of this section, all individual officers participating  
8 in domestic crisis teams in methods of dealing with domestic  
9 violence and neglect and abuse of the elderly and disabled. The  
10 teams may include social workers, clergy or other persons trained in  
11 counseling, crisis intervention or in the treatment of domestic  
12 violence and neglect and abuse of the elderly and disabled victims.  
13 (cf: P.L.1999, c.433, s.1)

14  
15 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month  
16 next following enactment.

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19 STATEMENT

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21 This bill concerns the training and oversight of domestic crisis  
22 teams established or participated in by law enforcement agencies.  
23 Domestic crisis teams may include social workers, clergy, or other  
24 persons trained in counseling, crisis intervention, or treating  
25 domestic violence victims, or elderly or disabled victims of neglect  
26 or abuse. See P.L.1991, c.261, s.4 (C.2C:25-20).

27 The bill would require that response procedures for domestic  
28 crisis teams be included in the training course and curriculum on  
29 handling, investigating, and responding to reports of domestic  
30 violence and abuse and neglect of the elderly and disabled prepared,  
31 and revised from time to time as needed, by the State's Division of  
32 Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety. With  
33 respect to the new response procedures to be developed, the bill  
34 would establish greater uniformity for future domestic crisis team  
35 responses by requiring that such teams be made available to victims  
36 whenever law enforcement responds to any reports of domestic  
37 violence and abuse and neglect of the elderly and disabled.  
38 Currently, there are inconsistencies in how and when the services of  
39 domestic crisis teams are made available to victims.

40 Lastly, the bill would strengthen oversight over domestic crisis  
41 teams by providing that law enforcement agency actions involving  
42 (1) establishing or participating in a domestic crisis team, and (2)  
43 training all individual officers participating in a team, shall be done  
44 under the supervision of the State's Division of Criminal Justice.

45 This bill embodies recommendation 9 of the Report of the  
46 Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on Domestic Violence issued  
47 June 2016.