

# SENATE, No. 385

## 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 Corrado, Bateman, Ruiz and Pou**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires training for law enforcement officers and assistant county prosecutors concerning handling of domestic violence cases.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2021)**

S385 WEINBERG, SINGLETON

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1 AN ACT concerning certain training for law enforcement and  
2 assistant county prosecutors 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  
19 **[that]** training as follows:

20 (a) all law enforcement officers shall attend initial training  
21 within 90 days of appointment or transfer and annual **[inservice]**  
22 in-service training of at least four hours as described in this section.  
23 Once every three years, this in-service training requirement shall be  
24 satisfied through in-person instructor-led training.

25 (b) all assistant county prosecutors involved in the handling of  
26 domestic violence cases shall attend initial training within 90 days  
27 of appointment or transfer and annual in-service training of at least  
28 four hours as described in this section.

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

35 (2) The Administrative Director of the Courts shall be  
36 responsible for ensuring that all judges and judicial personnel attend  
37 initial training within 90 days of appointment or transfer and annual  
38 **[inservice]** in-service training as described in this section.

39 (3) The Division of Criminal Justice and the Administrative  
40 Office of the Courts shall provide that all training on the handling  
41 of domestic violence matters shall include information concerning  
42 the impact of domestic violence on society, the dynamics of  
43 domestic violence, the statutory and case law concerning domestic  
44 violence, the necessary elements of a protection order, policies and  
45 procedures as promulgated or ordered by the Attorney General or

**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 the Supreme Court, and the use of available community resources,  
2 support services, available sanctions and treatment options. Law  
3 enforcement agencies shall: (1) establish domestic crisis teams or  
4 participate in established domestic crisis teams, and (2) shall train  
5 individual officers in methods of dealing with domestic violence  
6 and neglect and abuse of the elderly and disabled. The teams may  
7 include social workers, clergy or other persons trained in  
8 counseling, crisis intervention or in the treatment of domestic  
9 violence and neglect and abuse of the elderly and disabled victims.  
10 (cf: P.L.1999, c.433, s.1)

11

12 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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17 Currently, the Office of the Attorney General is responsible for  
18 training all law enforcement officers in the handling and  
19 investigation of domestic violence reports. Law enforcement  
20 officers are required to attend an initial training within 90 days of  
21 appointment or transfer. In addition, the officers are required to  
22 attend an annual in-service training of at least four hours.

23 In 2012, the Office of the Attorney General established an online  
24 domestic violence training program for law enforcement officers.  
25 The new online training program is intended to be used as a “stand-  
26 alone” program by officers to meet their annual in-service training  
27 requirement or to be used in conjunction with other forms of  
28 training.

29 This bill would insure that law enforcement officers are  
30 periodically required to attend in-person, instructor-led training.  
31 Under the bill, every three years the statutorily required in-service  
32 training could be satisfied through in-person instructor-led training.

33 In addition, the bill would require training for assistant county  
34 prosecutors involved in the handling of domestic violence cases.  
35 The training would be consistent with the training requirement for  
36 judges and judicial personnel. Initial training would be within 90  
37 days of appointment or transfer and the prosecutors would attend an  
38 annual in-service training of at least four hours.

39 This bill embodies recommendations 13 and 14 of the Report of  
40 the Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on Domestic Violence  
41 issued June 2016.