

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 161

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 21, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman NANCY F. MUNOZ

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Dancer and Assemblywoman McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Urges New Jersey Supreme Court to require training on domestic violence issues as part of continuing education requirements for certified matrimonial attorneys.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/23/2017)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** respectfully urging the New Jersey
2 Supreme Court to require domestic violence training for certain
3 attorneys.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, The “Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991,”
6 P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et al.), is intended to provide victims
7 of domestic violence with the maximum protection from abuse that
8 the law can provide; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Pursuant to the New Jersey Constitution, the New Jersey
10 Supreme Court has exclusive jurisdiction over the practice of law;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS**, Pursuant to the Rules of Court, all attorneys in the State
13 must fulfill certain educational requirements under the Continuing
14 Legal Education program; and

15 **WHEREAS**, The Rules of Court also provide that attorneys are eligible
16 for specialty certification in matrimonial law upon meeting specific
17 requirements promulgated by the Board on Attorney Certification
18 and the Committee on Matrimonial Law established by the New
19 Jersey Supreme Court; and

20 **WHEREAS**, In addition, the Rules of Court provide that the Board on
21 Attorney Certification may determine whether courses taken by an
22 attorney pursuant to the Continuing Legal Education program will
23 qualify toward meeting the attorney’s continuing education
24 requirements related to certification in a particular specialty; and

25 **WHEREAS**, In the view of the Legislature, because the issues regularly
26 handled by certified matrimonial attorneys, such as divorce,
27 alimony, child support, child custody, and visitation, may also
28 involve domestic violence, it is important that these attorneys
29 receive appropriate training in domestic violence issues; now,
30 therefore,

31

32 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
33 Jersey:

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35 1. The Supreme Court of New Jersey is respectfully requested to
36 require certified matrimonial attorneys to complete a minimum of
37 three hours of domestic violence training each year as part of their
38 Continuing Legal Education requirements.

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40 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
41 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of General Assembly to the Chief
42 Justice and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of New
43 Jersey and to the Administrative Director of the Courts.

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STATEMENT

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4 This resolution respectfully requests the New Jersey Supreme
5 Court to require annual domestic violence training for certified
6 matrimonial attorneys.

7 The resolution states that the “Prevention of Domestic Violence
8 Act of 1991,” P.L.1991, c.26 (C.2C:25-17 et al.), is intended to
9 provide victims of domestic violence with the maximum protection
10 from abuse that the law can provide. Under the New Jersey
11 Constitution, the New Jersey Supreme Court has exclusive
12 jurisdiction over the practice of law. The Rules of Court require all
13 attorneys in the State to fulfill certain educational requirements
14 under the New Jersey Continuing Legal Education program. The
15 Rules also provide that attorneys are eligible for specialty
16 certification in matrimonial law upon meeting specific requirements
17 promulgated by the Board on Attorney Certification and the
18 Committee on Matrimonial Law established by the New Jersey
19 Supreme Court. In addition, the Rules provide that the Board on
20 Attorney Certification may determine whether courses taken by an
21 attorney pursuant to the Continuing Legal Education program will
22 qualify toward meeting the attorney’s continuing education
23 requirements related to certification in a particular specialty.

24 The resolution provides that in the view of the Legislature,
25 because the issues regularly handled by certified matrimonial
26 attorneys, such as divorce, alimony, child support, child custody,
27 and visitation, may also involve domestic violence, it is important
28 that these attorneys receive appropriate training in domestic
29 violence issues.

30 The resolution respectfully requests the New Jersey Supreme
31 Court to require certified matrimonial attorneys to complete a
32 minimum of three hours of domestic violence training each year as
33 part of their Continuing Legal Education requirements.

34 This bill embodies recommendation 16 of the Report of the
35 Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on Domestic Violence issued
36 June 2016.