

SENATE, No. 2546

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator DIANE B. ALLEN

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

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

17 (2) The Attorney General shall be responsible for ensuring
18 **[that]** training as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

10
11 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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14 STATEMENT
15

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

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

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

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

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