

ASSEMBLY, No. 1770

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 GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

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District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

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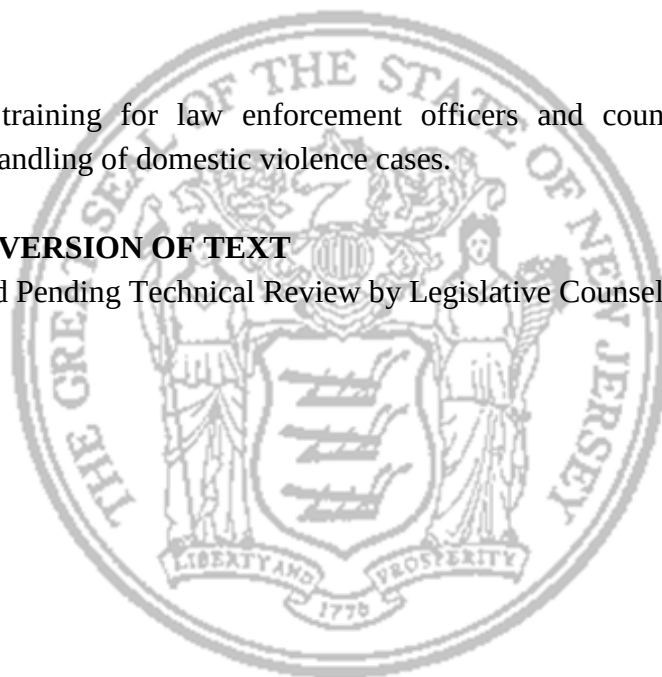
Assemblyman Dancer, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblymen Rooney, Houghtaling, Assemblywomen Murphy, Reynolds-Jackson and Vainieri Huttie

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/15/2021)

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

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

40 (3) The Division of Criminal Justice and the Administrative
41 **【Office】** Director of the Courts shall provide that all training on the
42 handling of domestic violence matters shall include information
43 concerning the impact of domestic violence on society, the
44 dynamics of domestic violence, the statutory and case law

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 concerning domestic violence, the necessary elements of a
2 protection order, policies and procedures as promulgated or ordered
3 by the Attorney General or the Supreme Court, and the use of
4 available community resources, support services, available
5 sanctions and treatment options.

6 Law enforcement agencies shall: (1) establish domestic crisis
7 teams or participate in established domestic crisis teams, and (2)
8 shall train individual officers 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, licensed marriage and
11 family therapists or other persons trained in counseling, crisis
12 intervention or in the treatment of domestic violence and neglect
13 and abuse of the elderly and disabled victims.

14 (cf: P.L.1999, c.433, s.1)

15
16 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

17
18
19 STATEMENT

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21 This bill requires certain training for law enforcement officers and
22 assistant county prosecutors in the handling of domestic violence
23 cases.

24 Currently, the Office of the Attorney General is responsible for
25 training all law enforcement officers in the handling and investigation
26 of domestic violence reports. Law enforcement officers are required to
27 attend an initial training within 90 days of appointment or transfer. In
28 addition, the officers are required to attend an annual in-service
29 training of at least four hours.

30 According to the June 2016 Report of the Supreme Court Ad Hoc
31 Committee on Domestic Violence, for many officers the annual
32 training is satisfied solely through on-line training methods.

33 This bill requires that once every three years, the in-service
34 training requirement would be required to be satisfied through in-
35 person instructor-led training.

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

42 This bill embodies recommendations 13 and 14 of the Report of
43 the Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on Domestic Violence issued
44 June 2016.