

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, Corrado, Ruiz and Pou

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.



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

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.

17 18 19 STATEMENT

20
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.