

SENATE, No. 3136

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Directs AOC to establish implicit bias training for judges and judicial personnel.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/16/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning certain training and supplementing Title 2B of
2 the New Jersey Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. a. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall develop
8 and approve an evidence-based training program on implicit bias.
9 This training course shall be reviewed at least every two years and
10 modified by the Administrative Office of the Courts from time to
11 time as need may require.

12 b. The Administrative Director of the Courts shall be
13 responsible for ensuring that all judges and judicial personnel attend
14 initial training within 90 days of appointment or transfer and annual
15 inservice training as described in this section.

16 “Implicit bias” means a bias in judgment or behavior that results
17 from subtle cognitive processes, including implicit prejudice and
18 implicit stereotypes, that often operate at a level below conscious
19 awareness and without intentional control.

20 “Implicit stereotypes” means the unconscious attributions of
21 particular qualities to a member of a certain social group,
22 influenced by experience, and based on learned associations
23 between various qualities and social categories, including race and
24 gender.

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26 2. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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31 This bill would direct the Administrative Office of the Courts to
32 establish an evidence-based training program on implicit bias. This
33 training course would be reviewed at least every two years and
34 modified by the Administrative Office of the Courts from time to
35 time as need may require.

36 The Administrative Director of the Courts would be responsible
37 for ensuring that all judges and judicial personnel attend initial
38 training within 90 days of appointment or transfer and annual
39 inservice training.

40 The bill defines “implicit bias” as a bias in judgment or behavior
41 that results from subtle cognitive processes, including implicit
42 prejudice and implicit stereotypes, that often operate at a level
43 below conscious awareness and without intentional control. In
44 addition, “implicit stereotypes” is defined as the unconscious
45 attributions of particular qualities to a member of a certain social
46 group, influenced by experience, and based on learned associations
47 between various qualities and social categories, including race and
48 gender.