

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 474

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

TEACHERS: Provides relative to the training requirements of certain mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Children's Code Article 603.1, relative to mandatory reporters of
3 child abuse and neglect; to provide relative to the training requirements for certain
4 mandatory reporters; to require teachers and child care providers to complete an
5 annual training on mandatory reporter laws; to provide for the retention of records
6 of completion; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Children's Code Article 603.1 is hereby amended and reenacted to read
9 as follows:

10 Art. 603.1. Required education; reporting child abuse

11 A. Commencing May 1, 2006, every person graduating from any teacher
12 preparation program in Louisiana shall have had in his curriculum instruction on the
13 requirements of and how to report suspected child abuse cases pursuant to Children's
14 Code Article 601 et seq., as well as instruction on how to identify the signs and
15 symptoms of child neglect and abuse, including sexual abuse, in order to receive his
16 teacher certification.

17 B. Beginning August 1, 2020, within the first two weeks after the first day
18 of each new school year, teaching and child care providers as defined by Article 603
19 of this Code are required to complete an online training course provided by the
20 Department of Children and Family Services. A record of completion of the course

1 by the teacher or child care provider shall be provided to and retained by each entity
2 at which the teacher or child care provider is employed. The entity at which the
3 teacher or child care provider is employed shall retain a list of all teachers or child
4 care providers who have not complied with the training requirements provided in this
5 Article.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 474 Original

2020 Regular Session

Freeman

Abstract: Requires annual training on mandatory reporting requirements for teachers and child care providers.

Present law requires certain persons, defined as mandatory reporters, to report to the Dept. of Children and Family Services or to law enforcement when the person has cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health is endangered as a result of abuse or neglect.

Present law provides for a list of persons who are defined as mandatory reporters including "teachers and child care providers".

Present law requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services to provide training on the statutory requirements and responsibility of reporting child abuse and neglect including the consequences of the failure to report.

Present law requires every person graduating from any teacher preparation program in La. to have had in his curriculum instruction on the requirements of and how to report suspected child abuse cases pursuant to present law, as well as instruction on how to identify the signs and symptoms of child neglect and abuse, including sexual abuse, in order to receive his teacher certification.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that beginning Aug. 1, 2020, within the first two weeks after the first day of each new school year, teaching and child care providers as defined by present law are required to complete an online training course provided by the Dept. of Children and Family Services. Proposed law further requires a record of completion of the course by the teacher or child care provider to be provided to and retained by each entity at which the teacher or child care provider is employed, and requires the entity to retain a list of those teachers or child care providers who have not complied with the proposed law training requirements.

(Amends Ch.C. Art. 603.1)