

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 557

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLMOTT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CHILDREN/ABUSE: Requires training be made available for mandatory reporters

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Children's Code Article 609(A)(3), relative to mandatory reporting of child abuse;
3 to require training be made available for mandatory reporters; to provide that a
4 mandatory reporter may obtain training as the reporter deems necessary; to authorize
5 state regulatory departments, boards, commissions, and agencies to offer continuing
6 education credit; to authorize certain entities to provide equivalent training; and to
7 provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Children's Code Article 609(A)(3) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 Art. 609. Mandatory and permitted reporting; training requirements

11 A. With respect to mandatory reporters:

12 * * *

13 (3)(a) To familiarize mandatory reporters, as defined by Children's Code
14 Article 603(15), with their legal mandate for reporting suspected child abuse and
15 neglect, such mandatory reporters shall be offered training on the statutory
16 requirements and responsibility of reporting child abuse and neglect. This training
17 shall be made available by the child welfare division of the Department of Children
18 and Family Services or any other mechanism as approved by the department as long
19 as it includes information on the reporting procedure and the consequences of failing
20 to report.

1 (b) Each mandatory reporter may obtain mandatory reporting training as
2 each mandatory reporter believes to be necessary in accordance with Subparagraph
3 (a) or (d) of this Paragraph.

4 (c) The appropriate state regulatory department, board, commission, or
5 agency for each category of mandatory reporter may provide continuing education
6 credit for the completion of the training pursuant to this Paragraph.

7 (d) Any entity, including but not limited to hospitals, educational and
8 religious institutions, and nonprofits, may provide its employees, volunteers, or
9 educational attendees with equivalent training pursuant to Subparagraph (a) of this
10 Paragraph.

11 * * *

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)]

Willmott

HB No. 557

Abstract: Requires that training be made available for mandatory reporters on mandatory reporting laws and the consequences of failing to report.

Proposed law establishes training for all mandatory reporters, as defined by present law, to familiarize these reporters with their legal mandate for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect. Specifies that said training must be made available by the child welfare section of the Dept. of Children and Family Services or any other mechanism as approved by the department as long as it includes information on the reporting procedure and consequences of failing to report.

Proposed law provides that each mandatory reporter may obtain mandatory reporting training as each mandatory reporter believes to be necessary.

Proposed law authorizes the appropriate state regulatory department, board, commission, or agency for each category of mandatory reporter to provide continuing education credit for the completion of the training.

Proposed law authorizes any entity, including but not limited to hospitals, educational and religious institutions, and nonprofits, to provide its employees, volunteers, or educational attendees with equivalent training.

(Adds Ch. C. Art. 609(A)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill.

1. Exempted from mandatory training any employee of or volunteer for an entity designated as nonprofit by the IRS or any hospital if the nonprofit entity or hospital regularly conducts equivalent training.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Made technical changes.
2. Clarified that each mandatory reporter may obtain mandatory reporting training as each mandatory reporter believes to be necessary.
3. Authorized the appropriate state regulatory department, board, commission, or agency for each category of mandatory reporter to provide continuing education credit for the completion of the training.
4. Authorized any entity, including but not limited to hospitals, educational and religious institutions, and nonprofits, to provide its employees, volunteers, or educational attendees with equivalent training.