

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 831

BY REPRESENTATIVE EGAN

JUDGES: Provides relative to mandatory judicial training

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:37, relative to judicial training; to provide for trauma-informed training;
3 to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 13:37 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

6 §37. Required judicial training

7 A. The legislature hereby finds the following:

8 (1) Family violence and child abuse are pervasive in Louisiana. Both forms
9 of abuse may result in life-threatening injuries or death and create life-long impacts
10 spanning generations.

11 (2) Victims of family violence and child abuse may have effects to their
12 physical health, psychological and emotional well being, and educational and
13 economic status which may result in hospitalization or incarceration.

14 (3) A vast amount of financial resources have been expended in response to
15 family violence and child abuse. Prevention efforts, such as trauma-informed
16 training for judges, would be a better use of those financial resources.

17 (4) In order to properly assess and respond to family violence and child
18 abuse cases, a high-level and specialized trauma-informed training is needed which
19 is unavailable to the judges of Louisiana.

1 B. Beginning January 1, 2025, all supreme court justices, courts of appeal
2 judges, district court judges, parish court judges, and city court judges shall annually
3 attend a specialized trauma-informed eight hour course. This course shall be
4 implemented and developed by the supreme court. The supreme court shall establish
5 a committee including but not limited to designees from the following:

6 (1) The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

7 (2) The Tulane School of Law Domestic Violence Clinic.

8 (3) Children's Hospital of New Orleans.

9 (4) The Louisiana State Bar Association.

10 C. The required eight hour course shall cover topics including but not limited
11 to the following:

12 (1) Causes and effects of child abuse.

13 (2) Evidence and proof in family violence and child abuse cases.

14 (3) Motivations, strategies, defenses, and behaviors of perpetrators of family
15 violence and child abuse.

16 (4) Strategies and behaviors of victims of family violence and child abuse.

17 (5) Financial and coercive control elements of family violence and child
18 abuse cases.

19 (6) Myths and misconceptions of family violence and child abuse cases.

20 (7) Special considerations in child custody cases involving family violence
21 and child abuse.

22 (8) Substantive and procedural law.

23 (9) Orders of protection.

24 (10) Criminal prosecution versus therapeutic approaches.

25 D. The Law Library of Louisiana shall maintain a current online and printed
26 database of training materials prepared in compliance with this Section.

27 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
28 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
29 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

- 1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
2 effective on the day following such approval.
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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 831 Original

2024 Regular Session

Egan

Abstract: Provides for trauma-informed training for judges.

Proposed law provides that beginning Jan. 1, 2025, all supreme court justices, courts of appeal judges, district court judges, parish court judges, and city court judges shall annually attend a specialized trauma-informed eight hour course. Provides that this course shall be implemented and developed by the supreme court.

Proposed law requires the supreme court to establish a committee including but not limited to designees from the following:

- (1) The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
- (2) The Tulane School of Law Domestic Violence Clinic.
- (3) Children's Hospital of New Orleans.
- (4) The Louisiana State Bar Association.

Proposed law requires the eight hour training course to cover certain topics relative to family violence and child abuse.

Proposed law requires the Law Library of Louisiana to maintain a current online and printed database of training materials prepared in compliance with proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 13:37)