

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 183
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/10/21

Short Title: Juv. Court Counselors/Sensitivity Training.-AB

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 1, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THAT THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT
3 OF PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RECEIVE JUVENILE MINORITY SENSITIVITY
4 TRAINING ANNUALLY AND TO CLARIFY THE DUTIES OF JUVENILE COURT
5 COUNSELORS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 114-12.1 reads as rewritten:
8 **"§ 114-12.1. Minority sensitivity training for law enforcement personnel.**

9 (a) The Department of Justice shall develop guidelines for minority sensitivity training
10 for all law enforcement personnel throughout the State. The Department shall ensure that all
11 persons who work with minority juveniles in the juvenile justice system are taught how to
12 communicate effectively with minority juveniles and how to recognize and address the needs of
13 those juveniles. The Department shall also advise all law enforcement and professionals who
14 work within the juvenile justice system of ways to improve the treatment of minority juveniles
15 so that all juveniles receive equal treatment. Except where local law enforcement or the Juvenile
16 Justice Section of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the Department of
17 Public Safety has existing minority sensitivity training that meets the Department guidelines, the
18 Department shall conduct the minority sensitivity training annually. Prior to the training each
19 year, the Department shall assess whether minorities are receiving fair and equal treatment in the
20 juvenile justice system with regard to the administration of predisposition procedures, of
21 diversion methods, of dispositional alternatives, and of treatment and post-release supervision
22 plans.

23 (b) The Juvenile Justice Section of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice
24 of the Department of Public Safety shall ensure that all ~~juvenile court counselors and other~~
25 ~~Division Section~~ personnel receive the minority sensitivity ~~training specified in subsection (a) of~~
26 ~~this section.~~ training. The Section is responsible for creating, implementing, and evaluating
27 juvenile minority sensitivity training annually."

28 **SECTION 1.(b)** This section becomes effective October 1, 2021.

29 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 143B-831 reads as rewritten:
30 **"§ 143B-831. Duties and powers of juvenile court counselors.**

31 As the court or the chief court counselor may direct or require, all juvenile court counselors
32 shall have the following powers and duties:

33 ...

34 (18) ~~Have any other duties as the court may direct.~~

35 (19) Have any other duties as the Section may direct."



1 **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
2 law.