
DIGEST

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HB 505 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Coussan

Abstract: Requires a motion or agreement of the parties before the court may require parties to complete a parenting program and modifies the duration of, cost for, and qualifications of such a program. Allows the court to render judgment for costs for the program and prohibits the instructor from serving as witness without court approval.

Present law authorizes courts to require parties in a custody or visitation proceeding to complete a court-approved seminar to educate the parties of the needs of children. Present law requires such seminar to last between three and four hours and cost no more than \$25 per person.

Proposed law authorizes courts to require the parties to complete the court-approved program only upon motion of a party, its own motion, or upon agreement of the parties and to render judgment for costs for the program. Proposed law qualifies evidence-based nonprofit programs as eligible programs, and removes the upper limitation on duration and cost of the program.

Proposed law prohibits the program instructor from being called as a witness in the custody or visitation proceeding without prior court approval.

(Amends R.S. 9:306(A), (B)(intro. para.), (1) and (3), (C), (D)(intro. para.) and (E); Redesignates R.S. 9:306)