

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 474

BY REPRESENTATIVES FREEMAN AND WRIGHT

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. Teaching or child care providers as defined by Article 603 of this Code
18 shall complete an online training course provided by the Department of Children and
19 Family Services between June first and August thirty-first annually. A record of
20 completion of the course by the teacher or child care provider shall be provided to

1 and retained by each entity at which the teacher or child care provider is employed.

2 The entity at which the teacher or child care provider is employed shall retain a list

3 of all teachers or child care providers who have not complied with the training

4 requirements provided in this Article.

5 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not

6 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

7 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

8 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become

9 effective on the day following such approval.

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 Engrossed

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 "teaching or child care provider".

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 teaching or 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 between June first and Aug. thirty-first annually. 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.

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

(Amends Ch.C. Art. 603.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Change time line for completion of required training from within the first two weeks of each new school year to between June first and Aug. thirty-first annually.
2. Make proposed law effective upon signature by the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.