

Regular Session, 2013

ACT No. 163

HOUSE BILL NO. 557

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLMOTT

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

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AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

Art. 609. Mandatory and permitted reporting; training requirements

A. With respect to mandatory reporters:

* * *

(3)(a) To familiarize mandatory reporters, as defined by Children's Code Article 603(15), with their legal mandate for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect, such mandatory reporters shall be offered training on the statutory requirements and responsibility of reporting child abuse and neglect. This training shall be made available by the child welfare division of the Department 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 the consequences of failing to report.

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____