DIGEST

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Ritchie HB No. 421

Abstract: Amends the definition of a "treatment program" as used in the Post-Separation Violence Relief Act to include a treatment program that has been ordered by the court.

<u>Present law</u> requires one or more parents to complete a treatment program prior to awarding custody or allowing visitation when there is a history of family violence. Defines "treatment program" as a course of evaluation and psychotherapy designed specifically for perpetrators of family violence. Further requires the treatment program to be conducted by a licensed mental health professional.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and expands the definition to include any other treatment program ordered by the court.

(Amends R.S. 9:362(7))