

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 421

BY REPRESENTATIVE RITCHIE

FAMILY LAW: Provides relative to court-approved treatment programs required for a parent with a history of family violence

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 9:362(7), relative to the Post-Separation Family Violence Relief
3 Act; to provide for the definition of a "treatment program"; and to provide for related
4 matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 9:362(7) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §362. Definitions

8 As used in this Part:

9 * * *

10 (7) "Treatment program" means a ~~course of evaluation and psychotherapy~~
11 ~~designed specifically for perpetrators of family violence, and conducted by licensed~~
12 ~~mental health professionals~~ program, comprised of a minimum of twenty-six in-
13 person sessions, that follows a model designed specifically for perpetrators of
14 domestic abuse. The offender's progress in the program shall be monitored by the
15 court. The provider of the program shall have all of the following:

16 (a) Experience in working directly with perpetrators and victims of domestic
17 abuse.

18 (b) Experience in facilitating batterer intervention groups.

- 1 (c) Training in the causes and dynamics of domestic violence, characteristics
 2 of batterers, victim safety, and sensitivity of victims.

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 comprised of a minimum of twenty-six in-person sessions that follows a model designed specifically for perpetrators of domestic abuse.

Present law 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.

Proposed law changes present law by defining a "treatment program" as used in the Post-Separation Violence Relief Act as a treatment program comprised of a minimum of 26 in-person sessions that follows a model designed specifically for perpetrators of domestic abuse. Requires the provider of the program to have all of the following:

- (1) Experience in working directly with the perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse.
- (2) Experience in facilitating batterer intervention groups.
- (3) Training in the causes and dynamics of domestic violence, characteristics of batterers, victim safety, and sensitivity of victims.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure to the original bill.

1. Added requirement that the treatment program be administered by an individual qualified by education, training, or experience in domestic violence treatment.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Changed the definition of a treatment program to one that is at least 26, in-person sessions and is monitored by the court.
2. Required the provider of the program to have specialized experience and training.