

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to continuing judicial training regarding family violence victims.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 22.110(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The court of criminal appeals shall adopt the rules necessary to accomplish the purposes of this section. The rules must:

(1) require each district judge, judge of a statutory county court, associate judge appointed under Chapter 54A of this code or Chapter 201, Family Code, master, referee, and magistrate to complete ~~[at least 12 hours of the training]~~ within the judge's first term of office or the judicial officer's first four years of service and provide ~~[a method for]~~ certification of completion of at least 12 hours of [that] training that includes:

(A) at [.] At least four hours ~~[of the training must be]~~ dedicated to issues related to trafficking of persons and child abuse and neglect that cover ~~[and must cover]~~ at least two of the topics described in Subsections (d)(8)-(12); and

(B) at [.] At least six hours ~~[of the training must be]~~ dedicated to the training described by Subsections (d)(5), (6), and (7);

(2) ~~[. The rules must]~~ require each judge and judicial

1 officer to complete [~~an additional five hours of training~~] during
2 each additional term in office or four years of service an
3 additional five hours of training that includes:

4 (A) at [~~.—At~~] least two hours [~~of the additional~~
5 ~~training must be~~] dedicated to issues related to trafficking of
6 persons and child abuse and neglect; and

7 (B) at least one hour dedicated to the dynamics
8 of and effects on victims of family violence;

9 (3) require each judge of a court having primary
10 responsibility for or giving preference to family law or family
11 violence matters to complete an additional two hours of training
12 every two years dedicated to the dynamics of and effects on victims
13 of family violence; and

14 (4) [[~~.—The rules must~~] exempt from the training
15 requirement of this subsection each judge or judicial officer who
16 files an affidavit stating that the judge or judicial officer does
17 not hear any cases involving family violence, sexual assault,
18 trafficking of persons, or child abuse and neglect.

19 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than December 1, 2023, the Texas
20 Court of Criminal Appeals shall adopt the rules necessary to
21 provide the training required under Section 22.110, Government
22 Code, as amended by this Act.

23 (b) Notwithstanding Section 22.110, Government Code, as
24 amended by this Act, a judge, master, referee, or magistrate who is
25 in office on the effective date of this Act must complete the
26 training required by Section 22.110, Government Code, as amended by
27 this Act, as applicable, not later than December 1, 2025.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.