

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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C.S.S.B. 2933
By: Menéndez
Jurisprudence
4/23/2025
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

In 2023, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services reported over 83,000 cases of elder abuse in Texas, up from 60,000 cases reported in 2022. The Department of Health and Human Services reports that one of the largest challenges in combating elder abuse is simply recognizing the signs of the abuse. Being able to recognize the signs of abuse in cases involving domestic violence, probate, guardianship, and estate matters is especially important for judges as they rule on matters that could potentially determine whether abuse is allowed to continue.

Currently, elder abuse training for judges is not required; however, this training is necessary to help judges understand the warning signs of elder abuse. This is especially important for judges who are working with elderly individuals on a daily basis through courts like probate and guardianship.

S.B. 2933 would add elder abuse training to the required training for district judges, statutory county court judges, associate judges, master, referee, and magistrate judge. This training would ensure judges are aware of the signs that elder abuse so they are able to make more informed decisions.

Committee Substitute: The committee substitute makes the bill a Texas Legislative Council draft.

C.S.S.B. 2933 amends current law relating to judicial training requirements regarding elder abuse and neglect.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority previously granted to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals is modified in SECTION 2 (Section 22.110, Government Code) of this bill.

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in SECTION 3 of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends the heading to Section 22.110, Government Code, to read as follows:

Sec. 22.110. JUDICIAL INSTRUCTION RELATED TO FAMILY VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS, AND CHILD AND ELDER ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

SECTION 2. Amends Sections 22.110(a), (b), and (d), Government Code, as follows:

(a) Requires the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to assure that judicial training related to the problems of family violence, sexual assault, trafficking of persons, child abuse and neglect, and elder abuse and neglect is provided. Makes a nonsubstantive change.

(b) Requires that the rules adopted by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to accomplish the purposes of Section 22.110 require certain judges to complete certain trainings,

including requiring each of certain judges and judicial officers within the judge's first term of office or the judicial officer's first four years of service to complete and provide certification of completion of 12 hours of training that include at least certain amounts of time dedicated to certain subjects, including four hours dedicated to issues related to trafficking of persons, child abuse and neglect, and elder abuse and neglect that cover at least two of the topics described in Subsections (d)(8) (relating to information about dynamics of sexual abuse of children, including child abuse accommodation syndrome and grooming) through (d)(14) (relating to information about elder abuse). Makes nonsubstantive changes.

(d) Requires that the judicial instruction content include information about certain subjects, including elder abuse and neglect. Makes nonsubstantive changes.

SECTION 3. (a) Requires the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, to adopt the rules necessary to implement Section 22.110, Government Code, as added by this Act.

(b) Provides that Section 22.110, Government Code, as added by this Act, applies to all judges, masters, referees, and magistrates elected, appointed, or holding office on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 2025.