

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 1159

Short Title: Pre-Serv.Train'g Exempt./Certain CPS Workers. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Farmer-Butterfield, Moore (Primary Sponsors);
Alexander, Barnhart, Dickson, Harrison, Mobley, Parmon, Samuelson,
and Walend.

Referred to: Ways and Means.

March 29, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN SOCIAL WORKERS FROM THE PRESERVICE
TRAINING REQUIREMENT PURSUANT TO LAWS REQUIRING TRAINING
BY THE DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND REQUIRING THE DIVISION OF
SOCIAL SERVICES TO DEVELOP OR ALLOW ALTERNATIVE MODELS OF
DELIVERING TRAINING TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES WORKERS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 131D-10.6A reads as rewritten:

"§ 131D-10.6A. Training by the Division of Social Services required.

(a) The Division of Social Services, Department of Health and Human Services, shall require a minimum of 30 hours of preservice training for foster care parents either prior to licensure or within six months from the date a provisional license is issued pursuant to G.S.131D-10.3, and a mandated minimum of 10 hours of continuing education for all foster care parents annually after the year in which a license is obtained.

(b) **(See Editor's Note)** The Division of Social Services shall establish minimum training requirements for child welfare services staff. The minimum training requirements established by the Division are as follows:

(1) Child welfare services workers shall complete a minimum of 72 hours of preservice training before assuming direct client contact responsibilities. In completing this requirement, the Division of Social Services shall ensure that each child welfare worker receives training on family centered practices and State and federal law regarding the basic rights of individuals relevant to the provision of child welfare

1 services, including the right to privacy, freedom from duress and
2 coercion to induce cooperation, and the right to parent.

3 (2) Child protective services workers shall complete a minimum of 18
4 hours of additional training that the Division of Social Services
5 determines is necessary to adequately meet training needs.

6 (3) Foster care and adoption workers shall complete a minimum of 39
7 hours of additional training that the Division of Social Services
8 determines is necessary to adequately meet training needs.

9 (4) Child welfare services supervisors shall complete a minimum of 72
10 hours of preservice training before assuming supervisory
11 responsibilities and a minimum of 54 hours of additional training that
12 the Division of Social Services determines is necessary to adequately
13 meet training needs.

14 (5) Child welfare services staff shall complete 24 hours of continuing
15 education annually. In completing this requirement, the Division of
16 Social Services shall provide each child welfare services staff member
17 with annual update information on family centered practices and State
18 and federal law regarding the basic rights of individuals relevant to the
19 provision of child welfare services, including the right to privacy,
20 freedom from duress and coercion to induce cooperation, and the right
21 to parent.

22 The Division of Social Services may grant an exception in whole or in part to the
23 requirement under subdivision (1) of this subsection to child welfare workers who
24 satisfactorily complete or are enrolled in a masters or bachelors program after July 1,
25 1999, from a North Carolina social work program accredited pursuant to the Council on
26 Social Work Education. The program's curricula must cover the specific preservice
27 training requirements as established by the Division of Social Services. The Division of
28 Social Services shall also grant an exception in whole or in part to the requirement
29 under subdivision (1) of this subsection to child welfare workers who have obtained a
30 bachelor's or master's degree from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work
31 Education and to child welfare services workers with social work experience, pursuant
32 to rules adopted by the Division of Social Services.

33 The Division of Social Services shall ensure that training opportunities are available
34 for county departments of social services and consolidated human service agencies to
35 meet the training requirements of this subsection.

36 (c) In an effort to ensure flexibility in the delivery of training for child welfare
37 services workers, the Division of Social Services shall develop or allow alternative
38 models of delivering training to child welfare services workers, which shall include
39 concentrated hours, such as the completion of the 72 hours of preservice training
40 delivered in a consecutive two-week period, evening, or weekend training models, or
41 online training. The Division of Social Services shall adopt rules to implement this
42 subsection."

43 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.