

STATE OF NEW YORK

8954

IN SENATE

September 2, 2020

Introduced by Sen. METZGER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the judiciary law, in relation to domestic violence training for judges

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The judiciary law is amended by adding a new section 39-c
2 to read as follows:

3 § 39-c. Domestic violence training. 1. Each judge or justice in a
4 court that exercises criminal jurisdiction, including town and village
5 justices, each judge of the family court, and each justice of the
6 supreme court who regularly handles matrimonial matters, shall attend,
7 every two years, a program approved by the chief administrator of the
8 courts addressing issues relating to domestic violence. Such program
9 shall include, but shall not be limited to: (a) information about the
10 specific needs of victims; (b) education on the causes of sexual abuse
11 and family violence; (c) education on the increased vulnerability of
12 certain populations, based on factors such as race, immigration status,
13 gender identity, income, or any other factor deemed relevant; (d) educa-
14 tion on culturally responsive approaches to serving victims; (e) educa-
15 tion on the impacts of domestic abuse and domestic abuse allegations on
16 children and the importance of considering these impacts when making
17 parenting time and child custody decisions that are in the best interest
18 of the child; (f) information on alleged and substantiated reports of
19 domestic abuse; (g) providing methods to increase information sharing
20 and cooperation among court departments in combating domestic abuse; and
21 (h) the availability of community based domestic violence shelter and
22 support services.

23 2. Attendance at such program shall be counted toward fulfillment of
24 the training and education requirements for justices and judges estab-
25 lished by the chief administrator of the courts.

26 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD16773-01-0