

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 183

Short Title: Juv. Court Counselors/Sensitivity Training.-AB (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives McNeill, Carter, Greene, and Richardson (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Judiciary 2, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 1, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO DIRECT THAT THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RECEIVE JUVENILE MINORITY SENSITIVITY TRAINING ANNUALLY AND TO CLARIFY THE DUTIES OF JUVENILE COURT COUNSELORS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 114-12.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 114-12.1. **Minority sensitivity training for law enforcement personnel.**

(a) The Department of Justice shall develop guidelines for minority sensitivity training for all law enforcement personnel throughout the State. The Department shall ensure that all persons who work with minority juveniles in the juvenile justice system are taught how to communicate effectively with minority juveniles and how to recognize and address the needs of those juveniles. The Department shall also advise all law enforcement and professionals who work within the juvenile justice system of ways to improve the treatment of minority juveniles so that all juveniles receive equal treatment. Except where local law enforcement or the Juvenile Justice Section of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety has existing minority sensitivity training that meets the Department guidelines, the Department shall conduct the minority sensitivity training annually. Prior to the training each year, the Department shall assess whether minorities are receiving fair and equal treatment in the juvenile justice system with regard to the administration of predisposition procedures, of diversion methods, of dispositional alternatives, and of treatment and post-release supervision plans.

(b) The Juvenile Justice Section of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety shall ensure that all ~~juvenile court counselors and other Division Section~~ personnel receive the minority sensitivity training specified in subsection (a) of ~~this section~~ training. The Section is responsible for creating, implementing, and evaluating juvenile minority sensitivity training annually."

SECTION 2. This section becomes effective October 1, 2021.

SECTION 3. G.S. 143B-831 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143B-831. **Duties and powers of juvenile court counselors.**

As the court or the chief court counselor may direct or require, all juvenile court counselors shall have the following powers and duties:

...
(18) ~~Have any other duties as the court may direct.~~
...."



1 **SECTION 4.** Except where otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
2 law.