

SENATE, No. 4714

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Requires law enforcement, prosecutorial, and judicial training on impact of trauma.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/5/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning trauma-informed training, supplementing Title
2 2C of the New Jersey Statutes, and amending various parts of the
3 statutory law.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7

8 1. (New section) a. In addition to any other requirements under
9 current law, training provided to municipal prosecutors pursuant to
10 section 10 of P.L.1999, c.349 (C.2B:25-10); law enforcement
11 officers, assistant county prosecutors, municipal court judges,
12 Superior Court judges, and judicial personnel pursuant to section 4
13 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-20); members of a county Sexual
14 Assault Response Team pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2001, c.81
15 (C.52:4B-52); law enforcement officers pursuant to section 1 of
16 P.L.2017, c.192 (C.52:4B-54.1); and county prosecutors and
17 assistant county prosecutors pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2021, c.66
18 (C.52:4B-54.2) shall include information on the application of
19 trauma-informed practices during real-time interactions with a
20 survivor of domestic violence or sexual assault.

21 b. Information on the application of trauma-informed practices
22 during real-time interactions with a survivor of domestic violence
23 or sexual assault shall include, but not be limited to:

24 (1) neurobiological effects of trauma on memory, behavior, and
25 communication;

26 (2) emotional state-dependent recall and the impact of stress on
27 memory retrieval;

28 (3) recognition of trauma responses including dissociation,
29 shutdown, freeze, and fawn responses;

30 (4) trauma-informed interviewing practices;

31 (5) considerations related to pacing, sequencing, and
32 environmental factors during interviews and testimony;

33 (6) impact of nervous system dysregulation on communication
34 and witness presentation;

35 (7) application of trauma-informed principles during courtroom
36 engagement and judicial proceedings; and

37 (8) current evidence-based research and best practices regarding
38 trauma and survivor interaction.

39

40 2. Section 10 of P.L.1999, c.349 (C.2B:25-10) is amended to
41 read as follows:

42 10. a. (1) The Attorney General, in consultation with **the**
43 county and municipal prosecutors, shall develop curricula for
44 training programs for **all** municipal prosecutors which shall

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **thus in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 include, but not be limited to, a domestic violence training [and
2 include topics] which includes information regarding the:

- 3 (a) [the] dynamics of domestic violence[,];
4 (b) [the] impact of domestic violence on children[,];
5 (c) [the] impact of trauma on survivors[,];
6 (d) risks for lethality in domestic violence cases[,];
7 (e) accountability of offenders [accountability,];
8 (f) safety planning and services for survivors of domestic
9 violence[,];
10 (g) application of trauma-informed practices during real-time
11 interactions with a survivor pursuant to section 1 of
12 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill); and
13 (h) [the] impact of racial bias and discrimination on survivors
14 and marginalized communities.

15 (2) Participation in such training programs shall be voluntary,
16 except that participation in the domestic violence training program
17 shall be mandatory. An attorney [successfully completing] who
18 successfully completes a training program shall receive such
19 certification or recognition as deemed appropriate by the Attorney
20 General.

21 b. The domestic violence training course and curriculum shall
22 be reviewed at least every two years and modified by the Division
23 of Criminal Justice [from time to time] , in consultation with the
24 Division of Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance, as [need
25 may require] necessary.

26 The Attorney General shall be responsible for ensuring that [all]
27 a [new] municipal [prosecutors] prosecutor appointed after the
28 effective date of P.L.2021, c.378 who [have] has not previously
29 served as a municipal prosecutor for a municipality [attend] attends
30 an initial domestic violence training within 90 days of appointment
31 or transfer and annual in-service training of at least four hours as
32 described in paragraph (3) of subsection b. of section 4 of
33 P.L. 1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-20). The training shall not be required
34 for [any] a municipal prosecutor who was appointed to that office
35 prior to the effective date of P.L.2021, c.378 who is subsequently
36 [re-appointed] reappointed to that office or appointed as a
37 municipal prosecutor for another municipality after that effective
38 date.

39 (cf: P.L.2021, c.378, s.1)

40

41 3. Section 4 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-20) is amended to read
42 as follows:

43 4. a. (1) The Division of Criminal Justice shall develop
44 and approve a training course and curriculum on the handling,
45 investigation, and response procedures concerning reports of
46 domestic violence and abuse and neglect of the elderly and

1 disabled. This training course and curriculum shall be reviewed at
2 least every two years and modified by the Division of Criminal
3 Justice **【from time to time】** as **【need may require】** necessary. The
4 Division of Criminal Justice shall distribute the curriculum to **【all】**
5 each local police **【agencies】** agency.

6 (2) The Attorney General shall be responsible for ensuring
7 training as follows:

8 (a) **【all】** a law enforcement **【officers】** officer shall attend initial
9 training within 90 days of appointment or transfer and annual in-
10 service training of at least four hours as described in this section.
11 Once every three years, this in-service training requirement shall be
12 satisfied through in-person instructor-led training.

13 (b) **【all】** an assistant county **【prosecutors】** prosecutor involved
14 in the handling of domestic violence cases shall attend initial
15 training within 90 days of appointment or transfer and annual in-
16 service training of at least four hours as described in this section.

17 b. (1) The Administrative Director of the Courts shall
18 develop and approve a training course and a curriculum for **【all】**
19 municipal court judges, Superior Court judges responsible for the
20 adjudication of domestic violence matters, and judicial personnel
21 involved with the intake and processing of domestic violence
22 complaints.

23 (a) **【All judges】** municipal court judges and Superior Court
24 judges and judicial personnel identified in this section shall
25 participate in core training regarding issues such as the dynamics of
26 domestic violence, the impact of domestic violence on children,
27 trauma-informed danger assessments, batterer intervention
28 programs, and domestic violence risk factors and lethality.

29 (b) **【In addition, municipal】** municipal court judges shall receive
30 **【specific】** supplemental training related to the issuance of
31 temporary restraining orders in emergent situations.

32 (c) Superior Court judges responsible for the adjudication of
33 domestic violence matters shall receive supplemental training
34 related to the issuance and enforcement of temporary and final
35 restraining orders, including factors considered when determining if
36 a final restraining order should be issued, child custody and
37 parenting plans, the setting of child support, distribution of property
38 and ongoing housing expenses, and counseling.

39 (d) the core curriculum and **【individualized】** supplemental
40 training programs shall be reviewed at least every two years and
41 modified by the Administrative Director of the Courts **【from time to**
42 **time】** as **【need may require】** necessary.

43 (2) The Administrative Director of the Courts shall be
44 responsible for ensuring that **【all】** municipal court judges, Superior
45 Court judges responsible for the adjudication of domestic violence
46 matters, and judicial personnel involved with the intake and
47 processing of domestic violence complaints attend initial training

1 within 90 days of appointment or transfer and annual in-service
2 training as described in this section.

3 (3) The Attorney General and the Administrative Director of the
4 Courts shall provide that **[all]** training on the handling of domestic
5 violence matters required under this subsection shall include
6 information concerning the:

7 (a) the impact of domestic violence on society~~],~~ and include
8 topics regarding **]**;

9 (b) the dynamics of domestic violence~~],]~~;

10 (c) the impact of domestic violence on children~~],]~~;

11 (d) the impact of trauma on survivors~~],]~~;

12 (e) risks for lethality in domestic violence cases~~],]~~;

13 (f) safety planning and services for survivors of domestic
14 violence~~],]~~;

15 (g) the impact of racial bias and discrimination on survivors
16 and marginalized communities~~],]~~;

17 (h) the statutory and case law concerning domestic
18 violence~~],]~~;

19 (i) the necessary elements of a protection order~~],]~~;

20 (j) the guidelines regarding when domestic violence incidents
21 trigger mandatory or discretionary arrest~~],]~~;

22 (k) policies and procedures as promulgated or ordered by the
23 Attorney General or the Supreme Court~~], and]~~;

24 (l) application of trauma-informed practices during real-time
25 interactions with a survivor pursuant to section 1 of
26 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill); and

27 (m) the use of available community resources, support services,
28 available sanctions, and treatment options.

29 c. Law enforcement agencies shall: (1) establish domestic crisis
30 teams or participate in established domestic crisis teams, and (2)
31 shall train individual officers in methods of dealing with domestic
32 violence and neglect and abuse of the elderly and disabled. The
33 teams may include social workers, clergy or other persons trained in
34 counseling, crisis intervention or in the treatment of domestic
35 violence and neglect and abuse of the elderly and disabled
36 **[victims]**.

37 (cf: P.L.2021, c.377, s.1)

39 4. Section 4 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-52) is amended to read
40 as follows:

41 4. The program coordinator shall:

42 a. Coordinate the county Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
43 program in accordance with standard protocols for the provision of
44 information and services to **[victims]** survivors of sexual assault
45 developed by the Attorney General pursuant to subsection d. of
46 section 6 of P.L.1985, c.404 (C.52:4B-44);

- 1 b. Perform forensic sexual assault examinations on **【victims】**
2 survivors of sexual assault in accordance with the standards
3 developed by the Attorney General and appropriate medical and
4 nursing standards of care;
- 5 c. Designate one or more licensed physicians or certified
6 forensic sexual assault nurse examiners to perform forensic sexual
7 assault examinations on **【victims】** survivors of sexual assault in
8 accordance with the standards developed by the Attorney General
9 and appropriate medical and nursing standards of care;
- 10 d. Develop and implement standardized guidelines for forensic
11 sexual assault examinations performed by designated physicians or
12 certified forensic sexual assault nurse examiners in the county;
- 13 e. Develop and implement a standardized education and
14 training program to provide instruction to members of the county
15 Sexual Assault Response Team established pursuant to section 6 of
16 **【this act】** P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) which shall include, but not
17 be limited to **【**, instruction in the following areas**】**:
- 18 (1) the importance of a coordinated, multi-disciplinary response
19 to a report of sexual assault;
- 20 (2) the policies and procedures which govern the responsibilities
21 of each team member;
- 22 (3) the psychological effects of sexual assault and rape trauma
23 syndrome on the **【victim】** survivor and the **【victim's】** survivor's
24 family and friends;
- 25 (4) the collection, handling and documentation of forensic
26 evidence; **【and】**
- 27 (5) the confidentiality issues associated with the treatment of a
28 **【victim】** survivor of sexual assault and the investigation of a report
29 of sexual assault; and
- 30 (6) the application of trauma-informed practices during real-time
31 interactions with a survivor pursuant to section 1 of
32 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
- 33 f. Establish, in cooperation with licensed health care facilities,
34 private waiting rooms and areas designated for forensic sexual
35 assault examinations and the provision of rape care services in the
36 licensed health care facilities participating in the program;
- 37 g. Develop, in cooperation with licensed health care facilities,
38 protocols for the storage of forensic evidence;
- 39 h. Provide appropriate services to **【victims】** survivors of sexual
40 assault, including the opportunity to tend to personal hygiene needs,
41 obtain fresh clothing and speak with a rape care advocate prior to
42 and during any medical procedure or law enforcement investigation,
43 unless the **【victim】** survivor requires immediate medical attention,
44 as appropriate;
- 45 i. Collaborate with law enforcement officials and the county
46 rape care program to ensure that the needs of **【victims】** survivors of
47 sexual assault are met in a compassionate manner;

1 j. Participate in regular meetings of the Sexual Assault Nurse
2 Examiner Program Coordinating Council established pursuant to
3 section 7 of **[this act]** P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-55); and

4 k. Develop and implement procedures to ensure that **[victims]**
5 survivors of sexual assault are not charged **[any]** a fee for services
6 that are directly associated with forensic sexual assault
7 examinations, including routine medical screening, medications for
8 prophylaxis of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy tests,
9 emergency contraception, supplies, equipment, and use of space.

10 As used in this section and section 6 of **[this act]** P.L.2001, c.81
11 (C.52:4B-54), “rape care advocate” means a victim counselor, as
12 defined pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1987, c.169 (C.2A:84A-22.14),
13 who specializes in the provision of rape care services.
14 (cf: P.L.2011, c.106, s.2)

15
16 5. Section 1 of P.L.2017, c.192 (C.52:4B-54.1) is amended to
17 read as follows:

18 1. a. The Division of Criminal Justice, in consultation with the
19 Division of Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance, shall
20 develop or approve a training course and curriculum for law
21 enforcement officers on the handling, investigation, and response
22 procedures for reports of sexual assault. This training course and
23 curriculum shall be reviewed at least every two years by the
24 division and modified as **[need may require]** necessary. The
25 division shall make the curriculum available to **[all]** each law
26 enforcement **[agencies]** agency in the State.

27 b. The Attorney General shall be responsible for ensuring that
28 **[all]** each law enforcement **[officers complete]** officer completes
29 in-service training triennially on the handling of sexual assault
30 matters.

31 c. The training course and curriculum shall include a
32 component on the application of trauma-informed practices during
33 real-time interactions with a survivor pursuant to section 1 of
34 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
35 (cf: P.L.2017, c.192, s.1)

36
37 6. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.66 (C.52:4B-54.2) is amended to read
38 as follows:

39 1. a. The Division of Criminal Justice shall develop or approve a
40 triennial in-service training course and curriculum specifically for
41 every county prosecutor and each assistant county prosecutor to
42 whom sexual assault cases are assigned on how to appropriately
43 handle, investigate, and respond to reports of sexual assault.

44 b. The training course and curriculum shall include a
45 component emphasizing the value of restorative justice in sexual
46 assault cases and the application of trauma-informed practices

1 during real-time interactions with a survivor pursuant to section 1 of
2 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

3 c. The division shall make the training course and curriculum
4 available to **【all】** each county prosecutor's **【offices】** office in the
5 State.

6 d. The division shall review the training course and curriculum
7 every five years, in consultation with nationally recognized trainers
8 with expertise in trauma-informed care and the New Jersey
9 Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and **【make any】** modify the
10 training course and curriculum as necessary **【modifications】**.

11 e. The division may make the training course and curriculum
12 available in an online format, but county prosecutors and
13 appropriate assistant county prosecutors shall complete the course
14 and curriculum in person every six years.

15 f. The Attorney General shall be responsible for ensuring that
16 **【all】** county prosecutors and appropriate assistant county
17 prosecutors triennially complete the in-service training on handling
18 sexual assault matters required by this section.

19 g. A county prosecutor or assistant county prosecutor
20 appointed after the effective date of P.L.2021, c.66 (C.52:4B-54.2
21 et al.) shall complete the training course and curriculum within 60
22 days of the county prosecutor's or assistant county prosecutor's
23 initial appointment. The division shall determine whether training
24 in the handling of sexual assault cases completed by a county
25 prosecutor or assistant county prosecutor appointed prior to the
26 effective date of P.L.2021, c.66 (C.52:4B-54.2 et al.) complies with
27 the requirements of this section. If the training does not comply
28 with these requirements, the county prosecutor or assistant county
29 prosecutor shall complete the training course and curriculum
30 required by this section within 60 days of the effective date of
31 P.L.2021, c.66 (C.52:4B-54.2 et al.).

32 h. The division shall develop an open process pursuant to
33 which the division will accept bids by organizations to assist in
34 developing and providing the training required by this section.
35 (cf: P.L.2021, c.66, s.1)

36
37 7. This act shall take effect on the first day of the thirteenth
38 month following enactment, but the Attorney General and the
39 Administrative Director of the Courts may take such anticipatory
40 administrative action in advance as shall be necessary for the
41 implementation of this act.

42
43
44 STATEMENT

45
46 This bill requires law enforcement, prosecutorial, and judicial
47 training on the impact of trauma.

1 Under the bill, certain law enforcement, prosecutorial, and
2 judicial professionals must receive training on the application of
3 trauma-informed practices during real-time interactions with a
4 survivor of domestic violence or sexual assault.

5 Training on the application of trauma-informed practices during
6 real-time interactions with survivors must include information on:

- 7 - neurobiological effects of trauma on memory, behavior, and
8 communication;
- 9 - emotional state-dependent recall and the impact of stress on
10 memory retrieval;
- 11 - recognition of trauma responses including dissociation,
12 shutdown, freeze, and fawn responses;
- 13 - trauma-informed interviewing practices;
- 14 - considerations related to pacing, sequencing, and
15 environmental factors during interviews and testimony;
- 16 - impact of nervous system dysregulation on communication
17 and witness presentation;
- 18 - application of trauma-informed principles during courtroom
19 engagement and judicial proceedings; and
- 20 - current evidence-based research and best practices regarding
21 trauma and survivor interaction.

22 Under current law, certain law enforcement, prosecutorial, and
23 judicial professionals who work with survivors of domestic
24 violence or sexual assault must attend trainings on domestic
25 violence and sexual assault.

26 These law enforcement, prosecutorial, and judicial professionals
27 include:

- 28 - Municipal prosecutors;
- 29 - Law enforcement officers;
- 30 - County prosecutors;
- 31 - Assistant county prosecutors;
- 32 - Municipal court judges;
- 33 - Superior Court judges responsible for the adjudication of
34 domestic violence matters;
- 35 - Judicial personnel involved with the intake and processing of
36 domestic violence complaints; and
- 37 - Members of a county Sexual Assault Response Team.

38 Although these trainings require instruction related to trauma-
39 informed practices, these trainings do not explicitly require training
40 on how trauma may affect memory, behavior, communication, and
41 testimony when a law enforcement, prosecutorial, or judicial
42 professional actively interacts with a survivor.