

**House File 538 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 538

BY FRY

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to mandatory child abuse and dependent adult  
2 abuse reporter training requirements.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 135.11, subsection 24, Code 2019, is  
2 amended by striking the subsection.

3 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 217.5A Director of human services —  
4 mandatory reporter training.

5 The director of human services shall review and approve  
6 mandatory reporter training curricula for those persons who  
7 work in a position classification that under law makes the  
8 persons mandatory reporters of child or dependent adult abuse  
9 and the position classification does not have a mandatory  
10 reporter training curriculum approved by a licensing or  
11 examining board.

12 Sec. 3. Section 232.69, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code  
13 2019, is amended to read as follows:

14 b. A person required to make a report under subsection 1,  
15 other than a physician whose professional practice does not  
16 regularly involve providing primary health care to children,  
17 shall complete ~~two hours~~ one hour of training relating to  
18 the identification and reporting of child abuse within six  
19 months of initial employment or self-employment involving the  
20 examination, attending, counseling, or treatment of children  
21 on a regular basis. Within one month of initial employment  
22 or self-employment, the person shall obtain a statement of  
23 the abuse reporting requirements from the person's employer  
24 or, if self-employed, from the department. The person shall  
25 complete at least ~~two hours~~ one hour of additional child abuse  
26 identification and reporting training every ~~five~~ three years.

27 Sec. 4. Section 232.69, subsection 3, paragraph d,  
28 subparagraph (2), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

29 (2) A training program using a curriculum approved by the  
30 director of ~~public health pursuant to~~ section 135.11 human  
31 services pursuant to section 217.5A.

32 Sec. 5. Section 235B.16, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code  
33 2019, is amended to read as follows:

34 b. A person required to report cases of dependent adult  
35 abuse pursuant to sections 235B.3 and 235E.2, other than a

1 physician whose professional practice does not regularly  
2 involve providing primary health care to adults, shall complete  
3 ~~two hours~~ one hour of training relating to the identification  
4 and reporting of dependent adult abuse within six months of  
5 initial employment or self-employment which involves the  
6 examination, attending, counseling, or treatment of adults on  
7 a regular basis. Within one month of initial employment or  
8 self-employment, the person shall obtain a statement of the  
9 abuse reporting requirements from the person's employer or, if  
10 self-employed, from the department. The person shall complete  
11 at least ~~two hours~~ one hour of additional dependent adult abuse  
12 identification and reporting training every ~~five~~ three years.

13 Sec. 6. Section 235B.16, subsection 5, paragraph d,  
14 subparagraph (2), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

15 (2) A training program using a curriculum approved by the  
16 director of ~~public health pursuant to [section 135.11](#)~~ human  
17 services pursuant to section 217.5A.

18 Sec. 7. Section 235B.16, subsection 5, paragraph e, Code  
19 2019, is amended by striking the paragraph.

20 Sec. 8. TRANSITION PROVISIONS. A child abuse or dependent  
21 adult abuse training certificate relating to the identification  
22 and reporting of child abuse or dependent adult abuse issued  
23 prior to July 1, 2019, remains effective and continues in  
24 effect as issued for the five-year period following its  
25 issuance.

26 EXPLANATION

27 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
28 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

29 This bill relates to mandatory child abuse and dependent  
30 adult abuse reporter training.

31 Current law requires the director of the department of  
32 public health to review and approve mandatory reporter training  
33 curricula for employees who work in a position that classifies  
34 the employee as a mandatory reporter and the position  
35 classification does not have a mandatory reporter training

1 curriculum approved by a licensing or examining board. The  
2 bill transfers this duty to the director of the department of  
3 human services.

4 The bill provides that a person who is required to make  
5 a mandatory report of child abuse or dependent adult abuse  
6 shall complete one hour instead of two hours of initial  
7 training relating to the identification and reporting of child  
8 abuse or dependent adult abuse within six months of initial  
9 employment or self-employment involving regular care of a  
10 child or dependent adult. The bill increases the frequency of  
11 training for mandatory child abuse and dependent adult abuse  
12 reporters from once every five years to once every three years  
13 and decreases the required hours of training from two hours to  
14 one hour. The bill provides a transition provision for persons  
15 who received a child abuse or dependent adult abuse training  
16 certificate prior to July 1, 2019.

17 Under current law, a person required to report both child  
18 abuse and dependent adult abuse may complete the requisite  
19 training through a combined training program. The bill strikes  
20 current law and requires such persons to complete separate  
21 child abuse training and dependent adult abuse training.