

House File 731 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 731
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 538)

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. Section 232.69, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code
4 2019, is amended to read as follows:

5 *b.* A person required to make a report under subsection
6 1, other than a physician whose professional practice does
7 not regularly involve providing primary health care to
8 children, shall complete two hours of training relating to
9 the identification and reporting of child abuse within six
10 months of initial employment or self-employment involving the
11 examination, attending, counseling, or treatment of children
12 on a regular basis. Within one month of initial employment
13 or self-employment, the person shall obtain a statement of
14 the abuse reporting requirements from the person's employer
15 or, if self-employed, from the department. The person
16 shall complete at least two hours of additional child abuse
17 identification and reporting training every ~~five~~ three years.
18 If the person completes at least one hour of additional child
19 abuse identification and reporting training prior to the
20 three-year expiration period, the person shall be deemed in
21 compliance with the training requirements of this section for
22 an additional three years.

23 Sec. 3. Section 232.69, subsection 3, paragraphs c and d,
24 Code 2019, are amended by striking the paragraphs and inserting
25 in lieu thereof the following:

26 *c.* The core training curriculum relating to the
27 identification and reporting of child abuse, as provided
28 in paragraph "b", shall be developed and provided by the
29 department.

30 *d.* An employer of a person required to make a report under
31 subsection 1 may provide supplemental training, specific to
32 identification and reporting of child abuse as it relates to
33 the person's professional practice, in addition to the core
34 training provided by the department.

35 Sec. 4. Section 235B.16, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code

1 2019, is amended to read as follows:

2 *b.* A person required to report cases of dependent adult
3 abuse pursuant to [sections 235B.3](#) and [235E.2](#), other than a
4 physician whose professional practice does not regularly
5 involve providing primary health care to adults, shall
6 complete two hours of training relating to the identification
7 and reporting of dependent adult abuse within six months of
8 initial employment or self-employment which involves the
9 examination, attending, counseling, or treatment of adults
10 on a regular basis. Within one month of initial employment
11 or self-employment, the person shall obtain a statement of
12 the abuse reporting requirements from the person's employer
13 or, if self-employed, from the department. The person shall
14 complete at least two hours of additional dependent adult
15 abuse identification and reporting training every ~~five~~ three
16 years. If the person completes at least one hour of additional
17 dependent adult abuse identification and reporting training
18 prior to the three-year expiration period, the person shall be
19 deemed in compliance with the training requirements of this
20 section for an additional three years.

21 Sec. 5. Section 235B.16, subsection 5, paragraphs c and d,
22 Code 2019, are amended by striking the paragraphs and inserting
23 in lieu thereof the following:

24 *c.* The core training curriculum relating to the
25 identification and reporting of dependent adult abuse, as
26 provided in paragraph "b", shall be developed by the department
27 pursuant to subsection 2 and provided by the department.

28 *d.* An employer of a person required to report cases
29 of dependent adult abuse pursuant to sections 235B.3 and
30 235E.2 may provide supplemental training, specific to the
31 identification and reporting of dependent adult abuse as it
32 relates to the person's professional practice, in addition to
33 the core training provided by the department.

34 Sec. 6. Section 235B.16, subsection 5, paragraph e, Code
35 2019, is amended by striking the paragraph.

1 training requirements through any of the following ways: a
2 continuing education program required under Code chapter
3 272C (relating to regulation of licensed professions and
4 occupations); a training program using a curriculum approved by
5 the director of public health pursuant to Code section 135.11
6 (relating to the duties of the director of the department
7 of public health); or a training program using an approved
8 curriculum offered by the appropriate public agency.

9 The bill strikes current law and requires the department of
10 human services (DHS) to develop curriculum and provide training
11 for all mandatory reporters of child abuse and dependent
12 adult abuse, regardless of the manner in which the person is
13 employed. Under the bill, an employer of a person required by
14 law to make a report of child abuse or dependent adult abuse
15 may provide supplemental child abuse and dependent adult abuse
16 training, specific to the identification and reporting of child
17 abuse or dependent adult abuse as it relates to the person's
18 professional practice, in addition to the core training
19 provided by DHS. The bill increases the frequency of training
20 for mandatory child abuse and dependent adult abuse reporters
21 from once every five years to once every three years, and
22 further provides that if the person completes at least one hour
23 of additional child abuse identification and reporting training
24 or one hour of additional dependent adult abuse identification
25 and reporting training prior to the three-year expiration
26 period, the person shall be deemed in compliance with the
27 training requirements for an additional three years. The bill
28 also provides a transition provision for persons who received a
29 child abuse or dependent adult abuse training certificate prior
30 to July 1, 2019.

31 Under current law, a person required to report both child
32 abuse and dependent adult abuse may complete the requisite
33 training through a combined training program. The bill strikes
34 current law and requires such persons to complete separate
35 child abuse training and dependent adult abuse training.