



HOUSE BILL 183: Juv. Court Counselors/Sensitivity Training.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 23, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. McNeill, Carter, Greene, Richardson	Prepared by:	Susan Sitze
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Robert Ryan Staff Attorneys

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 183 would require the Juvenile Justice Section of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice to ensure that all personnel receive juvenile minority sensitivity training annually. House Bill 183 would also amend the powers and duties of juvenile court counselors.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 114-12.1(a) requires the North Carolina Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide guidelines for minority sensitivity training guidelines to applicable criminal justice personnel and to actually provide that training to local departments that don't have adequate training programs. G.S. 114-12.1(b) requires the Juvenile Justice Section (Section) to ensure that juvenile court counselors receive the appropriate minority sensitivity training.

G.S. 143B-831 provides a list of 17 specific duties and powers that the court may give to juvenile court counselors and contains a catch all provision of "any other duties as the court may direct."

BILL ANALYSIS: **Section 1** of House Bill 183 would require the Section to create and implement a juvenile minority sensitivity training program on an annual basis that meets the DOJ's standards and would require not only juvenile court counselors, but also all Section personnel to receive this training. The Bill provides that if the Section does not have minority sensitivity training that meets the guidelines of DOJ, then DOJ will provide that training.

Section 2 of House Bill 183 would eliminate the catch all provision of "any other duties as the court may direct" from the list of duties and powers of juvenile court counselors.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 1 becomes effective October 1, 2021. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.

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