



HOUSE BILL 896: Jesse's Law.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary 2. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 6, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Paré, Cervania	Prepared by:	Debbie Griffiths
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H896-CSCI-28		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 896 would create a new Article in Chapter 50 of the General Statutes requiring court personnel involved in cases containing domestic violence or child abuse allegations to receive trauma-informed and culturally appropriate training on the dynamics, signs, and impact of domestic violence and child abuse, including sexual abuse.*

The Proposed Committee Substitute to House Bill 896 would create the Study Committee on Domestic Violence Training Standards for Professionals Involved in Child Custody Proceedings Involving Domestic Violence and Child Abuse (the Committee) to study the need and feasibility of implementing statewide training for individuals working in or with the judicial system in child custody cases involving domestic violence and child abuse. An interim and final report would be required providing the information studied, and any related findings and legislative recommendations.

BILL ANALYSIS: The Proposed Committee Substitute to House Bill 896 would do the following:

- Create the Study Committee on Domestic Violence Training Standards for Professionals Involved in Child Custody Proceedings Involving Domestic Violence and Child Abuse (the Committee).
- Require the Committee to study the need and feasibility of implementing statewide training of the following individuals involved in child custody proceedings involving child abuse and domestic violence including judges, judicial officers, parenting coordinators, guardians ad litem, family financial mediators, child custody mediators, professionals referred by the court to conduct reunification therapy, and any other individuals the Committee determines to be appropriate.
- Require the study to include, at a minimum, the following:
 - The appropriate duration and frequency of the training.
 - The minimum content of the training including the dynamics of domestic violence, child abuse, coercive control, and trauma, and evidence-based practices including the Duluth Model, the Saunders Study, and adverse childhood experiences research.
 - The minimum qualifications and credentials of individuals or organizations to deliver the required training.
 - Potential fiscal impacts, options for securing funding, and allocating costs.
 - Review of existing models in other states and timelines for implementation.

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- Require an interim report no later than March 1, 2026, and a final report no later than June 30, 2026, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Senate and House Appropriations Committees on Justice and Public Safety including the information studied, and any related findings and legislative recommendations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would become effective when it becomes law.