

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE BILL 1551

Short Title: Pre-Serv.Train'g Exempt./Certain CPS Workers. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Farmer-Butterfield; B. Allen and Stiller.

Referred to: Health.

April 21, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN SOCIAL WORKERS FROM THE PRESERVICE
2 TRAINING REQUIREMENT PURSUANT TO LAWS REQUIRING TRAINING
3 BY THE DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF
4 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND REQUIRING THE DIVISION OF
5 SOCIAL SERVICES TO DEVELOP OR ALLOW ALTERNATIVE MODELS OF
6 DELIVERING TRAINING TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES WORKERS.
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8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 131D-10.6A reads as rewritten:

10 **"§ 131D-10.6A. Training by the Division of Social Services required.**

11 (a) The Division of Social Services, Department of Health and Human Services,
12 shall require a minimum of 30 hours of preservice training for foster care parents either
13 prior to licensure or within six months from the date a provisional license is issued
14 pursuant to G.S.131D-10.3, and a mandated minimum of 10 hours of continuing
15 education for all foster care parents annually after the year in which a license is
16 obtained.

17 (b) **(See Editor's Note)** The Division of Social Services shall establish minimum
18 training requirements for child welfare services staff. The minimum training
19 requirements established by the Division are as follows:

- 20 (1) Child welfare services workers shall complete a minimum of 72 hours
21 of preservice training before assuming direct client contact
22 responsibilities. In completing this requirement, the Division of Social
23 Services shall ensure that each child welfare worker receives training
24 on family centered practices and State and federal law regarding the
25 basic rights of individuals relevant to the provision of child welfare
26 services, including the right to privacy, freedom from duress and
27 coercion to induce cooperation, and the right to parent.

- 1 (2) Child protective services workers shall complete a minimum of 18
2 hours of additional training that the Division of Social Services
3 determines is necessary to adequately meet training needs.
- 4 (3) Foster care and adoption workers shall complete a minimum of 39
5 hours of additional training that the Division of Social Services
6 determines is necessary to adequately meet training needs.
- 7 (4) Child welfare services supervisors shall complete a minimum of 72
8 hours of preservice training before assuming supervisory
9 responsibilities and a minimum of 54 hours of additional training that
10 the Division of Social Services determines is necessary to adequately
11 meet training needs.
- 12 (5) Child welfare services staff shall complete 24 hours of continuing
13 education annually. In completing this requirement, the Division of
14 Social Services shall provide each child welfare services staff member
15 with annual update information on family centered practices and State
16 and federal law regarding the basic rights of individuals relevant to the
17 provision of child welfare services, including the right to privacy,
18 freedom from duress and coercion to induce cooperation, and the right
19 to parent.

20 The Division of Social Services may grant an exception in whole or in part to the
21 requirement under subdivision (1) of this subsection to child welfare workers who
22 satisfactorily complete or are enrolled in a masters or bachelors program after July 1,
23 1999, from a North Carolina social work program accredited pursuant to the Council on
24 Social Work Education. The program's curricula must cover the specific preservice
25 training requirements as established by the Division of Social Services. The Division of
26 Social Services may also grant an exception in whole or in part to the requirement under
27 subdivision (1) of this subsection to child welfare workers who have obtained a
28 bachelors or masters degree from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work
29 Education or to child welfare services workers with social work experience, pursuant to
30 rules adopted by the Division of Social Services.

31 The Division of Social Services shall ensure that training opportunities are available
32 for county departments of social services and consolidated human service agencies to
33 meet the training requirements of this subsection.

34 (c) In an effort to ensure flexibility in the delivery of training for child welfare
35 services workers, the Division of Social Services shall develop or allow alternative
36 models of delivering training to child welfare services workers, which may include
37 concentrated hours, such as the completion of the 72 hours of preservice training
38 delivered in a consecutive two-week period, evening or weekend training models, or
39 online training. The Division of Social Services shall adopt rules to implement this
40 subsection."

41 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.