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P.L. 2005, CHAPTER 309, *approved January 11, 2006*
Assembly, No. 3413 (*Second Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning services provided to victims of domestic violence
2 by the State's workforce development system, amending and
3 supplementing P.L. 1979, c.337 and supplementing Title 34 of the
4 Revised Statutes.

5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

8

9 1. (New Section) This act shall be known as "The Domestic
10 Violence and Workforce Development Initiative Act."

11

12 2. (New Section) Each counselor who provides counseling
13 pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1992, c.48 (C.34:15B-38), section 7 of
14 P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-7), or section 3 of P.L.1992, c.47 (C.43:21-
15 59), and any other staff member of the Department of Labor and
16 Workforce Development or of a One Stop Career Center as defined in
17 subsection d. of section 5 of P.L.2004, c.39 (C.34:1A-1.6) who
18 processes unemployment compensation claims and has direct, in
19 person, contact with claimants or who provides counseling or
20 employment services to claimants, shall:

21 a. Be trained to implement the provisions of this section applicable
22 to the counselor or staff member and to understand and address
23 employment, training, income security, safety and related issues facing
24 individuals who are victims of domestic violence as defined in section
25 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19);

26 b. Comply with standards adopted by the Commissioner of Labor
27 and Workforce Development, in consultation with the Advisory
28 Council on Domestic Violence created pursuant to P.L.1979, c.337
29 (C.30:14-1 et seq.), regarding the screening or self-screening of each
30 individual receiving any of the indicated counseling or employment
31 services or applying for unemployment compensation, to ascertain
32 whether the individual is a victim of domestic violence;

33 c. For each individual ¹[found] who is or appears¹ to be a victim
34 of domestic violence, make referrals to services determined to be
35 appropriate in the case of the individual, including, but not limited to,
36 any appropriate referral to a designated domestic violence agency as
37 defined in subsection (j) of R.S.43:21-5 or a community shelter for
38 victims of domestic violence certified pursuant to standards and

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly ALA committee amendments adopted November 22, 2004.

² Senate SBA committee amendments adopted December 5, 2005.

1 procedures established by P.L.1979, c.337 (C.30:14-1 et seq.), and
2 disclose the rights that the individual may have to unemployment
3 compensation pursuant to subsection (j) of R.S.43:21-5 ² but shall
4 not provide domestic violence counseling or be regarded as a Certified
5 Domestic Violence Specialist² ;

6 d. Include in any Employability Development Plan developed for
7 the individual appropriate accommodations for the individual's needs
8 as a victim of domestic violence; and

9 e. Comply with all requirements regarding the confidentiality of the
10 individual, including, as applicable, the requirements of section 4 of
11 P.L.1992, c.48 (C.34:15B-38), section 7 of P.L.1992, c.43
12 (C.34:15D-7), section 3 of P.L.1992, c.47 (C.43:21-59) and the
13 "Address Confidentiality Program Act," R.S.47:4-1 et seq.

14 The training conducted pursuant to subsection a. of this section
15 shall be conducted by a Certified Domestic Violence Specialist or, if
16 a Certified Domestic Violence Specialist is not available to conduct the
17 training, by another person found by the Commissioner of Labor and
18 Workforce Development¹, in consultation with the Commissioner of
19 Community Affairs,¹ to have equivalent qualifications and expertise
20 regarding domestic violence issues, based on standards of qualification
21 and expertise developed by the commissioner in consultation with the
22 Advisory Council on Domestic Violence created pursuant to P.L.1979,
23 c.337 (C.30:14-1 et seq.). For the purposes of this section, "Certified
24 Domestic Violence Specialist" means a person who has fulfilled the
25 requirements of certification as a Domestic Violence Specialist
26 established by the New Jersey Association of Domestic Violence
27 Professionals.

28

29 3. (New Section) The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce
30 Development shall, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
31 P.L. 1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1 et seq.), and in consultation with the
32 Advisory Council on Domestic Violence created pursuant to P.L.1979,
33 c.337 (C.30:14-1 et seq.) ¹and the Commissioner of Community
34 Affairs¹, adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of
35 section 2 of this act.

36

37 4. Section 4 of P.L.1979, c. 337 (C.30:14-4) is amended to read as
38 follows:

39 4. a. There is created an Advisory Council on Domestic Violence
40 which shall consist of [19] 20 members: the Director of the Division
41 on Women in the Department of Community Affairs, the Director of
42 the Division of Youth and Family Services and the Director of the
43 Division of ¹[Public Welfare] Family Development¹ in the Department
44 of Human Services, the Director of the Administrative Office of the
45 Courts, the Commissioner of the Department of Education, the
46 Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, the Attorney

1 General, or their designees, and one representative of Legal Services
2 of New Jersey, one former domestic violence shelter resident, one
3 representative of the Police Chiefs Association, one representative of
4 the County Prosecutors Association, one representative of the New
5 Jersey State Nurses Association, one representative of the Mental
6 Health Association in New Jersey, one representative of the New
7 Jersey Crime Prevention Officers Association, one representative of
8 the New Jersey Hospital Association, one representative of the Violent
9 Crimes Compensation Board, and four representatives of the New
10 Jersey Coalition for Battered Women to be appointed by the
11 Governor.

12 b. The advisory council shall:

13 (1) Monitor the effectiveness of the laws concerning domestic
14 violence and make recommendations for their improvement;

15 (2) Review proposed legislation governing domestic violence and
16 make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature;

17 (3) Study the needs, priorities, programs, and policies relating to
18 domestic violence throughout the State; and

19 (4) Ensure that all service providers and citizens are aware of the
20 needs of and services available to victims of domestic violence and
21 make recommendations for community education and training
22 programs.

23 c. The advisory council shall periodically advise the Director of the
24 Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human
25 Services and the Director of the Division on Women in the Department
26 of Community Affairs on its activities, findings and recommendations.
27 (cf: P.L.1987, c. 103, s.1)

28

29 5. (New Section) The Commissioner of Human Services, in
30 consultation with the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence ¹and the
31 Commissioner of Community Affairs¹, shall develop a plan for public
32 agencies and other providers of services to victims of domestic
33 violence, including designated domestic violence agencies as defined
34 in subsection (j) of R.S.43:21-5 and community shelters for victims of
35 domestic violence certified pursuant to standards and procedures
36 established by P.L.1979, c.337 (C.30:14-1 et seq.), to increase agency
37 and provider awareness and use of the State's workforce development
38 system to assist victims of domestic violence.

39

40 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

41

42

43

44

45 "The Domestic Violence and Workforce Development Initiative Act."

ASSEMBLY, No. 3413

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 211th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 18, 2004

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DAVID R. MAYER
District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)
Assemblywoman MARY T. PREVITE
District 6 (Camden)
Assemblywoman JOAN VOSS
District 38 (Bergen)
Assemblyman CRAIG A. STANLEY
District 28 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

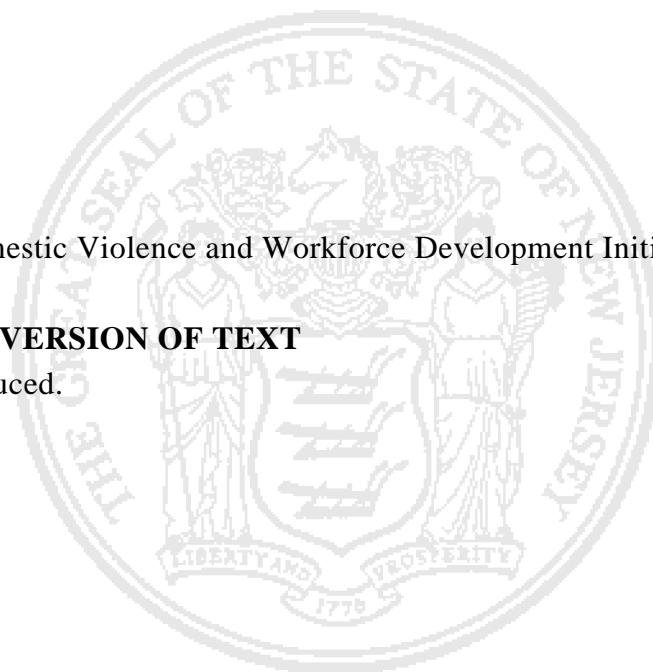
Assemblyman Diegnan, Assemblywoman Pou, Assemblymen Morgan, Panter, Manzo, Stack, Scalera, Wisniewski, R.Smith, Connors, Assemblywoman Greenstein, Assemblymen Chiappone, Chivukula, Assemblywoman Quigley, Assemblymen Van Drew, Greenwald, Fisher, Conaway and McKeon

SYNOPSIS

"The Domestic Violence and Workforce Development Initiative Act."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/23/2004)

A3413 MAYER, PREVITE

2

1 AN ACT concerning services provided to victims of domestic violence
2 by the State's workforce development system, amending and
3 supplementing P.L. 1979, c.337 and supplementing Title 34 of the
4 Revised Statutes.

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7 of New Jersey:

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14 P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-7), or section 3 of P.L.1992, c.47 (C.43:21-
15 59), and any other staff member of the Department of Labor and
16 Workforce Development or of a One Stop Career Center as defined in
17 subsection d. of section 5 of P.L.2004, c.39 (C.34:1A-1.6) who
18 processes unemployment compensation claims and has direct, in
19 person, contact with claimants or who provides counseling or
20 employment services to claimants, shall:

21 a. Be trained to implement the provisions of this section applicable
22 to the counselor or staff member and to understand and address
23 employment, training, income security, safety and related issues facing
24 individuals who are victims of domestic violence as defined in section
25 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19);

26 b. Comply with standards adopted by the Commissioner of Labor
27 and Workforce Development, in consultation with the Advisory
28 Council on Domestic Violence created pursuant to P.L.1979, c.337
29 (C.30:14-1 et seq.), regarding the screening or self-screening of each
30 individual receiving any of the indicated counseling or employment
31 services or applying for unemployment compensation, to ascertain
32 whether the individual is a victim of domestic violence;

33 c. For each individual found to be a victim of domestic violence,
34 make referrals to services determined to be appropriate in the case of
35 the individual, including, but not limited to, any appropriate referral to
36 a designated domestic violence agency as defined in subsection (j) of
37 R.S.43:21-5 or a community shelter for victims of domestic violence
38 certified pursuant to standards and procedures established by
39 P.L.1979, c.337 (C.30:14-1 et seq.), and disclose the rights that the
40 individual may have to unemployment compensation pursuant to
41 subsection (j) of R.S.43:21-5;

42 d. Include in any Employability Development Plan developed for
43 the individual appropriate accommodations for the individual's needs

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 as a victim of domestic violence; and

2 e. Comply with all requirements regarding the confidentiality of the
3 individual, including, as applicable, the requirements of section 4 of
4 P.L.1992, c.48 (C.34:15B-38), section 7 of P.L.1992, c.43
5 (C.34:15D-7), section 3 of P.L.1992, c.47 (C.43:21-59) and the
6 "Address Confidentiality Program Act," R.S.47:4-1 et seq.

7 The training conducted pursuant to subsection a. of this section
8 shall be conducted by a Certified Domestic Violence Specialist or, if
9 a Certified Domestic Violence Specialist is not available to conduct the
10 training, by another person found by the Commissioner of Labor and
11 Workforce Development to have equivalent qualifications and
12 expertise regarding domestic violence issues, based on standards of
13 qualification and expertise developed by the commissioner in
14 consultation with the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence created
15 pursuant to P.L.1979, c.337 (C.30:14-1 et seq.). For the purposes of
16 this section, "Certified Domestic Violence Specialist" means a person
17 who has fulfilled the requirements of certification as a Domestic
18 Violence Specialist established by the New Jersey Association of
19 Domestic Violence Professionals.

20

21 3. (New Section) The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce
22 Development shall, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
23 P.L. 1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1 et seq.), and in consultation with the
24 Advisory Council on Domestic Violence created pursuant to P.L.1979,
25 c.337 (C.30:14-1 et seq.), adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the
26 purposes of section 2 of this act.

27

28 4. Section 4 of P.L.1979, c. 337 (C.30:14-4) is amended to read as
29 follows:

30 4. a. There is created an Advisory Council on Domestic Violence
31 which shall consist of [19] 20 members: the Director of the Division
32 on Women in the Department of Community Affairs, the Director of
33 the Division of Youth and Family Services and the Director of the
34 Division of Public Welfare in the Department of Human Services, the
35 Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Commissioner
36 of the Department of Education, the Commissioner of Labor and
37 Workforce Development, the Attorney General, or their designees, and
38 one representative of Legal Services of New Jersey, one former
39 domestic violence shelter resident, one representative of the Police
40 Chiefs Association, one representative of the County Prosecutors
41 Association, one representative of the New Jersey State Nurses
42 Association, one representative of the Mental Health Association in
43 New Jersey, one representative of the New Jersey Crime Prevention
44 Officers Association, one representative of the New Jersey Hospital
45 Association, one representative of the Violent Crimes Compensation
46 Board, and four representatives of the New Jersey Coalition for

1 Battered Women to be appointed by the Governor.

2 b. The advisory council shall:

3 (1) Monitor the effectiveness of the laws concerning domestic
4 violence and make recommendations for their improvement;

5 (2) Review proposed legislation governing domestic violence and
6 make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature;

7 (3) Study the needs, priorities, programs, and policies relating to
8 domestic violence throughout the State; and

9 (4) Ensure that all service providers and citizens are aware of the
10 needs of and services available to victims of domestic violence and
11 make recommendations for community education and training
12 programs.

13 c. The advisory council shall periodically advise the Director of the
14 Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human
15 Services and the Director of the Division on Women in the Department
16 of Community Affairs on its activities, findings and recommendations.
17 (cf: P.L.1987, c. 103, s.1)

18

19 5. (New Section) The Commissioner of Human Services, in
20 consultation with the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence, shall
21 develop a plan for public agencies and other providers of services to
22 victims of domestic violence, including designated domestic violence
23 agencies as defined in subsection (j) of R.S.43:21-5 and community
24 shelters for victims of domestic violence certified pursuant to
25 standards and procedures established by P.L.1979, c.337 (C.30:14-1
26 et seq.), to increase agency and provider awareness and use of the
27 State's workforce development system to assist victims of domestic
28 violence.

29

30 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

31

32

33

STATEMENT

34

35 This bill requires that job training counselors in the State's
36 workforce development system and other staff who process
37 unemployment insurance claims and have direct contact with claimants
38 or counsel or provide employment services to claimants:

39 1. Be trained to implement the provisions of the bill and understand
40 and address employment, training, income security, safety and related
41 issues facing victims of domestic violence;

42 2. Screen each individual receiving the counseling, applying for
43 unemployment compensation, or receiving employment services to
44 ascertain whether the individual is a victim of domestic violence;

45 3. For each individual found to be a victim of domestic violence,
46 make referrals to services determined to be appropriate for the

A3413 MAYER, PREVITE

5

1 individual, including referral to a designated domestic violence agency
2 or a community shelter for victims of domestic violence;

3 4. Disclose the individual's rights concerning unemployment
4 benefits;

5 5. Include in any Employability Development Plan developed for
6 the individual appropriate accommodations for the individual's needs
7 as a victim of domestic violence; and

8 6. Comply with all applicable confidentiality requirements,
9 including requirements for address confidentiality.

10 The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development is
11 directed to adopt regulations to effectuate the purposes of the bill in
12 consultation with the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence. The
13 Commissioner of Human Services is directed to develop a plan, in
14 consultation with the council, for public agencies and other providers
15 of services to victims of domestic violence to increase agency and
16 provider awareness and use of the State's workforce development
17 system.

18 The bill also makes the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce
19 Development a member of the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence
20 Act.

ASSEMBLY LABOR COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3413

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 22, 2004

The Assembly Labor Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3413, with committee amendments.

This bill requires that job training counselors in the State's workforce development system and other staff who process unemployment insurance claims and have direct contact with claimants or counsel or provide employment services to claimants:

1. Be trained to implement the provisions of the bill and understand and address employment, training, income security, safety and related issues facing victims of domestic violence;
2. Screen each individual receiving the counseling, applying for unemployment compensation, or receiving employment services to ascertain whether the individual is a victim of domestic violence;
3. For each individual found to be a victim of domestic violence, make referrals to services determined to be appropriate for the individual, including referral to a designated domestic violence agency or a community shelter for victims of domestic violence;
4. Disclose the individual's rights concerning unemployment benefits;
5. Include in any Employability Development Plan developed for the individual appropriate accommodations for the individual's needs as a victim of domestic violence; and
6. Comply with all applicable confidentiality requirements, including requirements for address confidentiality.

The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development is directed to adopt regulations to effectuate the purposes of the bill in consultation with the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence and the Commissioner of Community Affairs. The Commissioner of Human Services is directed to develop a plan, in consultation with the council, for public agencies and other providers of services to victims of domestic violence to increase agency and provider awareness and use of the State's workforce development system.

The bill also makes the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development a member of the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence Act.

The committee amendments give the Commissioner of Community

Affairs a consultive role in developing plans and regulations to implement the provisions of the bill. The bill also directs counselors and other staff to provide appropriate referrals to individuals who appear to be victims of domestic violence, as well as known victims.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3413

(with committee amendments)

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 5, 2005

The Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3413 (1R) with committee amendments.

This bill, as amended, requires that job training counselors in the State's workforce development system and other staff who process unemployment insurance claims and have direct contact with claimants or counsel or provide employment services to claimants:

1. Be trained to implement the provisions of the bill and understand and address employment, training, income security, safety and related issues facing victims of domestic violence;
2. Screen each individual receiving the counseling, applying for unemployment compensation, or receiving employment services to ascertain whether the individual is a victim of domestic violence;
3. For each individual found to be a victim of domestic violence, make referrals to services determined to be appropriate for the individual, including referral to a designated domestic violence agency or a community shelter for victims of domestic violence, but shall not provide domestic violence counseling or be regarded as a Certified Domestic Violence Specialist;
4. Disclose the individual's rights concerning unemployment benefits;
5. Include in any Employability Development Plan developed for the individual appropriate accommodations for the individual's needs as a victim of domestic violence; and
6. Comply with all applicable confidentiality requirements, including requirements for address confidentiality.

The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development is directed to adopt regulations to effectuate the purposes of the bill in consultation with the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence and the Commissioner of Community Affairs. The Commissioner of Human Services is directed to develop a plan, in consultation with the council, for public agencies and other providers of services to victims of domestic violence to increase agency and provider awareness and use of the State's workforce development system.

The bill also makes the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development a member of the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence Act.

As reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2160 (1R), as also reported by the committee.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments clarify that an individual who provides job training counseling pursuant to the bill, shall not provide domestic violence counseling or be regarded as a Certified Domestic Violence Specialist.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified for a fiscal note.

SENATE, No. 2160

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
211th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 13, 2004

Sponsored by:

Senator FRED MADDEN

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator ELLEN KARCHER

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

"The Domestic Violence and Workforce Development Initiative Act."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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2 by the State's workforce development system, amending and
3 supplementing P.L. 1979, c.337 and supplementing Title 34 of the
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26 b. Comply with standards adopted by the Commissioner of Labor
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28 Council on Domestic Violence created pursuant to P.L.1979, c.337
29 (C.30:14-1 et seq.), regarding the screening or self-screening of each
30 individual receiving any of the indicated counseling or employment
31 services or applying for unemployment compensation, to ascertain
32 whether the individual is a victim of domestic violence;

33 c. For each individual who is or appears to be a victim of domestic
34 violence, make referrals to services determined to be appropriate in the
35 case of the individual, including, but not limited to, any appropriate
36 referral to a designated domestic violence agency as defined in
37 subsection (j) of R.S.43:21-5 or a community shelter for victims of
38 domestic violence certified pursuant to standards and procedures
39 established by P.L.1979, c.337 (C.30:14-1 et seq.), and disclose the
40 rights that the individual may have to unemployment compensation
41 pursuant to subsection (j) of R.S.43:21-5;

42 d. Include in any Employability Development Plan developed for
43 the individual appropriate accommodations for the individual's needs

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36 Division of ~~[Public Welfare]~~ Family Development in the Department
37 of Human Services, the Director of the Administrative Office of the
38 Courts, the Commissioner of the Department of Education, the
39 Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, the Attorney
40 General, or their designees, and one representative of Legal Services
41 of New Jersey, one former domestic violence shelter resident, one
42 representative of the Police Chiefs Association, one representative of
43 the County Prosecutors Association, one representative of the New
44 Jersey State Nurses Association, one representative of the Mental
45 Health Association in New Jersey, one representative of the New
46 Jersey Crime Prevention Officers Association, one representative of

1 the New Jersey Hospital Association, one representative of the Violent
2 Crimes Compensation Board, and four representatives of the New
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12 (4) Ensure that all service providers and citizens are aware of the
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15 programs.

16 c. The advisory council shall periodically advise the Director of the
17 Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human
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19 of Community Affairs on its activities, findings and recommendations.

20 (cf: P.L.1987, c.103, s.1)

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23 consultation with the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence and the
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STATEMENT

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44 issues facing victims of domestic violence;

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2 3. For each individual found to be a victim of domestic violence,
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4 individual, including referral to a designated domestic violence agency
5 or a community shelter for victims of domestic violence;

6 4. Disclose the individual's rights concerning unemployment
7 benefits;

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18 for public agencies and other providers of services to victims of
19 domestic violence to increase agency and provider awareness and use
20 of the State's workforce development system.

21 The bill also makes the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce
22 Development a member of the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence
23 Act.

SENATE LABOR COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2160

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 3, 2005

The Senate Labor Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2160.

This bill, as amended by the committee, requires that job training counselors in the State's workforce development system and other staff who process unemployment insurance claims and have direct contact with claimants or counsel or provide employment services to claimants:

1. Be trained to implement the provisions of the bill and understand and address employment, training, income security, safety and related issues facing victims of domestic violence;
2. Screen each individual receiving the counseling, applying for unemployment compensation, or receiving employment services to ascertain whether the individual is a victim of domestic violence;
3. For each individual found to be a victim of domestic violence, make referrals to services determined to be appropriate for the individual, including referral to a designated domestic violence agency or a community shelter for victims of domestic violence, but shall not provide domestic violence counseling or be regarded as Certified Domestic Violence Specialist;
4. Disclose the individual's rights concerning unemployment benefits;
5. Include in any Employability Development Plan developed for the individual appropriate accommodations for the individual's needs as a victim of domestic violence; and
6. Comply with all applicable confidentiality requirements, including requirements for address confidentiality.

The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development is directed to adopt regulations to effectuate the purposes of the bill in consultation with the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence and the Commissioner of Community Affairs. The Commissioner of Human Services is directed to develop a plan, in consultation with the council, for public agencies and other providers of services to victims of domestic violence to increase agency and provider awareness and use of the State's workforce development system.

The bill also makes the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development a member of the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence Act.

The committee amended the bill to clarify that an individual who provides job training counseling pursuant to this act, shall not provide domestic violence counseling or be regarded as a Certified Domestic Violence Specialist.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2160

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 5, 2005

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2160 (1R).

This bill requires that job training counselors in the State's workforce development system and other staff who process unemployment insurance claims and have direct contact with claimants or counsel or provide employment services to claimants:

1. Be trained to implement the provisions of the bill and understand and address employment, training, income security, safety and related issues facing victims of domestic violence;
2. Screen each individual receiving the counseling, applying for unemployment compensation, or receiving employment services to ascertain whether the individual is a victim of domestic violence;
3. For each individual found to be a victim of domestic violence, make referrals to services determined to be appropriate for the individual, including referral to a designated domestic violence agency or a community shelter for victims of domestic violence, but shall not provide domestic violence counseling or be regarded as a Certified Domestic Violence Specialist;
4. Disclose the individual's rights concerning unemployment benefits;
5. Include in any Employability Development Plan developed for the individual appropriate accommodations for the individual's needs as a victim of domestic violence; and
6. Comply with all applicable confidentiality requirements, including requirements for address confidentiality.

The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development is directed to adopt regulations to effectuate the purposes of the bill in consultation with the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence and the Commissioner of Community Affairs. The Commissioner of Human Services is directed to develop a plan, in consultation with the council, for public agencies and other providers of services to victims of domestic violence to increase agency and provider awareness and use of the State's workforce development system.

The bill also makes the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce

Development a member of the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence Act.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill 3413 (1R), as also reported and amended by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified for a fiscal note.