



**IOWA HOUSE  
DEMOCRATS**

## BILL SUMMARY

# Mandatory Reporter Training HF 731

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**Status of Bill:** House Calendar

**Committee:** Human Resources (21-0)

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**Lead Democrat:** Rep. Wessel-Kroeschell

**Floor Manager:** Rep. Bergan

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## Background

Last session, the Health and Human Services Budget required that a Mandatory Reporter Training and Certification Workgroup convene and make recommendations on what improvements can be made to the mandatory reporter training that is provided in the state. Currently, these trainings are reviewed by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) by one staff person. There are several different trainings available, and the IDPH does not have the capacity to view all of them to make sure they are compliant with Iowa laws. This bill works to address some of these issues, and to streamline the trainings.

## Summary

The bill requires the following changes be made to the mandatory reporter training:

- Create two separate trainings for child abuse and dependent adult abuse. Currently, these trainings are combined into one.
- Both trainings will now be two hours and are to be taken once every three years. The subsequent trainings will be one hour long, and include any changes that were made to the reporting laws. They will also be free to the organizations that will use them. Currently, the combined training is two hours, and is taken once every five years. Some of the current trainings charge a fee, while others don't cost anything.
- These trainings will be brought under the purview of the Department of Human Resources (DHS) and will no longer be the responsibility of the IDPH. DHS currently has a contract with Iowa State University to host and create both trainings. DHS will be using the Children's Justice Act Grant for the start-up cost (\$25,000), and the annual maintenance cost for the first few years (\$8,000). After that, they are expected to absorb the cost within their budget.
- These trainings will include a pre and post-test, and employees will be able to print off a certificate as proof that they completed the course. Employers will also be allowed to supplement the DHS created trainings with their own in order to give their employees more job-specific information.
- Those who took the training before July 1, 2019 will still have the five-year window until they have to take the next training. After that next training, they will be required to take it every three years.
- DHS has a verbal commitment with the Area Education Agencies (AEAs) and the Iowa Hospital Association (IHA) to give them the trainings to integrate into their technology. The AEAs and the IHA have large pools of employees that take these trainings, so it is more efficient for all parties involved for them to use the DHS trainings within their own systems. This will be finalized through the rules process.

Thien, Kelsey [LEGIS]G:\Caucus Staff\Kelsey.Thien\2019 Session\Bill Summaries\Need to Print\HF 731-Mandatory Reporter Training.docx\March 26, 2019\9:20 AM