

SENATE BILL NO. 275—SENATOR CANNIZZARO

MARCH 4, 2025

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to domestic relations. (BDR 11-541)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact. Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to domestic relations; prohibiting a court with jurisdiction over a child custody proceeding from taking certain actions for the sole purpose of improving a deficient relationship between a child and a parent of the child under certain circumstances; prohibiting any such court from ordering a child to receive reunification treatment under certain circumstances; requiring any such court to consider certain evidence in making certain findings relating to allegations of domestic violence or child abuse; requiring a judge who presides over a child custody proceeding and certain other persons to complete certain training relating to domestic violence and child abuse; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law provides that it is the policy of this State to: (1) ensure that minor
2 children have a continuing relationship with both parents after the parents have
3 ended their relationship; (2) encourage such parents to share the rights and
4 responsibilities of child rearing; and (3) establish that such parents have an
5 equivalent duty to provide their minor children with necessary maintenance,
6 healthcare, education and support. (NRS 125C.001) **Section 5** of this bill: (1)
7 defines the term “reunification treatment” to mean a treatment or therapy aimed at
8 reuniting or reestablishing a relationship between a child and an estranged or
9 rejected parent or other family member of the child; and (2) prohibits a court from
10 issuing an order requiring a child to receive reunification treatment under certain
11 circumstances. **Section 5** also prohibits a court from removing a child from a parent
12 or litigant or restricting contact between a child and a parent or litigant for the sole



13 purpose of improving a deficient relationship between the child and the other parent
14 of the child under certain circumstances.

15 **Section 6** of this bill provides that in a child custody proceeding in which a
16 parent is alleged to have committed domestic violence or child abuse, expert
17 evidence relating to the alleged domestic violence or child abuse may only be
18 admitted by a professional who possesses certain expertise and clinical experience.

19 **Section 6** also: (1) requires the court in any such proceeding to consider evidence
20 of past domestic violence or child abuse under certain circumstances; and (2)
21 prohibits the court in any such proceeding from issuing an order to remediate the
22 resistance of a child to have contact with a parent alleged to have committed
23 domestic violence or child abuse under certain circumstances.

24 Existing law requires each judge of the family court to attend a course designed
25 for the training of new judges within 12 months after taking office. (NRS 3.028)

26 **Section 7** of this bill requires each judge who presides over a child custody
27 proceeding and certain other persons who have regular and routine contact with
28 persons involved in child custody proceedings to complete certain training relating
29 to domestic violence and child abuse. Under **section 7**, any such training must
30 comply with certain provisions of federal law.

31 **Sections 3 and 4** of this bill define certain terms for the purposes of **sections 2-**
32 **7** of this bill.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 125C of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this
3 act.

4 **Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act, unless*
5 *the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in*
6 *sections 3 and 4 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in*
7 *those sections.*

8 **Sec. 3. 1.** *“Child custody proceeding” means a proceeding*
9 *in which legal custody, physical custody or visitation with respect*
10 *to a child is at issue.*

11 **2.** *The term includes a proceeding for divorce, separation,*
12 *paternity, child support, termination of parental rights and*
13 *protection from domestic violence in which the issue may appear.*

14 **3.** *The term does not include a delinquency proceeding*
15 *conducted pursuant to title 5 of NRS or a proceeding held*
16 *pursuant to chapter 432B of NRS.*

17 **Sec. 4.** *“Domestic violence” means an act described in*
18 *NRS 33.018.*

19 **Sec. 5. 1.** *During a child custody proceeding, the court*
20 *shall not:*

21 *(a) For the sole purpose of improving a deficient relationship*
22 *between a child and the other parent of the child, remove the child*
23 *from a parent or litigant or restrict contact between the child and a*
24 *parent or litigant who:*



- 1 (1) *Is capable of meeting the needs of the child;*
2 (2) *Is protective of the child;*
3 (3) *Does not physically or sexually abuse the child or*
4 *neglect the child; and*
5 (4) *Is a person with whom the child is bonded or to whom*
6 *the child is attached; or*

7 (b) *Issue an order requiring a child to receive reunification*
8 *treatment unless:*

9 (1) *Generally accepted and scientifically valid proof*
10 *demonstrates that the reunification treatment is:*

11 (I) *Safe, effective and of therapeutic value; and*

12 (II) *Will not harm a child; and*

13 (2) *The reunification treatment is not predicated on*
14 *isolating a child from a parent who meets the requirements set*
15 *forth in subparagraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, of paragraph (a) or*
16 *otherwise prohibiting contact between a child and any such*
17 *parent.*

18 2. *As used in this section, "reunification treatment" means a*
19 *treatment or therapy aimed at reuniting or reestablishing a*
20 *relationship between a child and an estranged or rejected parent*
21 *or other family member of the child.*

22 **Sec. 6. I.** *Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in a*
23 *child custody proceeding in which a parent is alleged to have*
24 *committed domestic violence or child abuse:*

25 (a) *Expert evidence relating to alleged domestic violence or*
26 *child abuse may only be admitted by a professional who possesses*
27 *demonstrated expertise and substantial clinical experience that are*
28 *not primarily of a forensic nature;*

29 (b) *The court shall, in making any finding relating to an*
30 *allegation of domestic violence or child abuse, consider all*
31 *relevant and admissible evidence of past domestic violence or child*
32 *abuse committed by the parent who is the subject of the allegation,*
33 *including, without limitation, any evidence which indicates that*
34 *the parent has been:*

35 (1) *Arrested for or convicted of domestic violence or child*
36 *abuse; or*

37 (2) *A party against whom an order for protection,*
38 *restraining order or injunction in the nature of an order for*
39 *protection is issued; and*

40 (c) *The court shall not issue an order to remediate the*
41 *resistance of a child to have contact with a parent alleged to have*
42 *committed domestic violence or child abuse unless the order:*

43 (1) *Primarily addresses the behavior of the parent with*
44 *whom the child resists contact; and*



1 (2) *Requires the parent with whom the child resists contact*
2 *to take action to remediate the resistance of the child as a*
3 *condition precedent to requiring the other parent of the child to*
4 *take any action to improve the relationship of the child with the*
5 *parent with whom the child resists contact.*

6 2. *For the purposes of this section, an order or injunction is*
7 *in the nature of a temporary or extended order for protection if it*
8 *grants relief that might be given in a temporary or extended order*
9 *for protection.*

10 3. *As used in this section:*

11 (a) *“Child abuse” means:*

12 (1) *Physical or mental injury of a nonaccidental nature to a*
13 *child under the age of 18 years; or*

14 (2) *Sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child under the*
15 *age of 18 years.*

16 (b) *“Clinical experience” means experience working with and*
17 *on behalf of victims of domestic violence or child abuse.*

18 (c) *“Forensic” means provided pursuant to a court order for*
19 *the purpose of litigation. The term includes, without limitation, the*
20 *evaluation of a parent or child involved in a child custody*
21 *proceeding.*

22 (d) *“Order for protection” means:*

23 (1) *A temporary or extended order for protection against*
24 *domestic violence issued pursuant to NRS 33.017 to 33.100,*
25 *inclusive;*

26 (2) *A temporary or extended order for protection against*
27 *stalking, aggravated stalking or harassment issued pursuant to*
28 *NRS 200.591; or*

29 (3) *A temporary or extended order for protection against*
30 *sexual assault issued pursuant to NRS 200.378.*

31 (e) *“Sexual abuse” has the meaning ascribed to it in*
32 *NRS 432B.100.*

33 (f) *“Sexual exploitation” has the meaning ascribed to it in*
34 *NRS 432B.110.*

35 **Sec. 7. 1.** *Any judge who presides over a child custody*
36 *proceeding and any person who, during the scope of his or her*
37 *employment, has regular and routine contact with persons who*
38 *are involved in a child custody proceeding, including, without*
39 *limitation, any guardian ad litem, attorney appointed by the court*
40 *to represent a child, custody evaluator, mediator or employee of*
41 *the court, shall, in addition to any other required training,*
42 *complete training relating to domestic violence and child abuse.*

43 2. *The training required by subsection 1 must comply with*
44 *the applicable requirements of the Violence Against Women Act*



1 *Reauthorization Act of 2022, Pub. L. No. 117-103, 34 U.S.C. §§*
2 *12291 et seq., including, without limitation:*

3 (a) *The number of hours of initial training and ongoing*
4 *training a person subject to the requirements of subsection 1 must*
5 *complete;*

6 (b) *The standards applicable to the training required by*
7 *subsection 1; and*

8 (c) *The qualifications required of a person who provides the*
9 *training required by subsection 1.*

10 3. *As used in this section, “judge” means a judge of the*
11 *district court and any other officer of the Judicial Branch of this*
12 *State, including, without limitation, a magistrate, master or*
13 *referee.*

14 **Sec. 8.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2025.



