

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO:	H1648
TITLE:	An Act for providing for the training, continuing training, and education of judges, and other legal hearing officers
SPONSOR:	Rep. Michael S. Day (by request Vincent L. Dixon)
CO-SPONSORS:	None
HEARING DATE:	April 8, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY:	2023-2024, H1449 (Day) 2021-2022, H.1511 (Day) 2019-2020, H. 3276 (Day)
COMPANION BILL:	S1159 (Lewis) – Narrowed. Creates advisory board to create judicial training program
CURRENT LAW:	<p>Section 6 of Chapter 23E of the General Laws gives the senior judge of the Industrial Accidents Board the responsibility to establish an annual workers’ compensation judicial training program to instruct all administrative judges or administrative law judges in matters related to their professional development. This includes establishing criteria for annual reviews.</p> <p>Section 27 of Chapter 211 gives the supreme judicial court the power to adopt rules requiring the justices to participate in pre-service and in-service training programs.</p> <p>Section 16 of Chapter 211B requires the chief justice for administration and management to establish a judicial institute to provide for the training of all judicial and nonjudicial personnel of the trial court, the appeals court and the supreme judicial court. The institute is charged with performing and continually updating a comprehensive analysis of the training needs of the personnel. This includes pre-service and in-service training for judges and clerks and continuing education for all court personnel. The institute also provides substance abuse training to personnel in consultation with the bureau of substance addiction services within</p>

the department of public health. Section 9B also provides for domestic and sexual violence training for court personnel.

BILL SUMMARY:

This legislation inserts a new chapter in the General Laws to provide for the training, continuing training and education of judges and other legal hearing officers.

Clause 1. States that Massachusetts is a leader in legal reform and legal systems

Clause 2. The chapter's purpose is to establish and encourage a robust formal framework for the training of all judges and other legal hearing officers.

Clause 3. The Attorney General, in consultation with the Board of Bar Overseers, is given the authority to establish Judicial Training. This includes training and continuing education for all judges and legal hearing officers including members of boards and commissions which make regulatory and legally binding decisions.

Clause 4. All persons covered shall receive initial training at the beginning of their appointment and regular update training yearly and as needed by the regulations created by the Attorney General.