

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 1311

## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCHROER.

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5117S.01I

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

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### AN ACT

To amend supreme court rule 15.05, relating to continuing legal education requirements for lawyers.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Supreme court rule 15.05 is amended, to read  
2 as follows:

15.05. Continuing Legal Education Requirements

2 (a) After July 1, 1988, except as provided in Rule  
3 15.05(c), each lawyer shall complete and report, during each  
4 reporting year, a total of at least 15 credit hours of  
5 accredited programs, seminars, and activities. For each  
6 reporting year:

7 (1) at least [three] **two** of the total 15 credit hours  
8 must be devoted exclusively to accredited ethics programs,  
9 seminars, and activities, including professionalism,  
10 substance abuse, mental health, legal or judicial ethics,  
11 malpractice prevention, explicit or implicit bias,  
12 diversity, inclusion, or cultural competency programs,  
13 seminars, and activities[; and

14 (2) at least one of the three ethics credit hours  
15 required under Rule 15.05(a)(1) must be devoted exclusively  
16 to explicit or implicit bias, diversity, inclusion, or  
17 cultural competency].

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

25 (c) A lawyer is not required to complete or report any  
26 credit hours in the reporting year in which the lawyer is  
27 initially licensed to practice law in this state except as  
28 provided in Rule 15.05(d). Any lawyer not an active judge  
29 who has not actively practiced law in Missouri during a  
30 reporting year or has given notice of inactive status  
31 pursuant to Rule 6.03 shall not be required to complete or  
32 report any credit hours during that reporting year. Upon  
33 written application and for good cause shown, waivers or  
34 extensions of time of the credit hour or reporting  
35 requirements of this Rule 15 may be granted in individual  
36 cases or classes of cases involving hardship or extenuating  
37 circumstances.

48 (e) For each reporting year, not more than six credit  
49 hours may consist of self-study, videotape, audiotape, or

50 other similar accredited programs, seminars, or activities.  
51 A speaker at an accredited program, seminar, or activity may  
52 receive credit for preparation and presentation time. An  
53 author may receive credit for research and composition time  
54 for written materials that have been or will be published by  
55 an accredited sponsor, in a professional journal, or as a  
56 monograph.

57 (f) Each judge of the family court division and each  
58 commissioner of the family court division shall complete at  
59 least six hours of continuing legal education courses  
60 relating to family court issues and law not later than six  
61 months after designation or appointment. The hours completed  
62 to fulfill this requirement may be used to fulfill the  
63 requirements of Rule 15.05(a).

64 Each year thereafter, such judges and commissioners  
65 shall complete at least six hours of continuing legal  
66 education courses relating to family court issues and law.  
67 The hours completed on an annual basis may be used to  
68 fulfill the requirements of Rule 15.05(a).

69 Completion of the requirements of this Rule 15.05(f)  
70 shall be reported to The Missouri Bar as specified by The  
71 Missouri Bar.

72 This Rule 15.05(f) shall apply to all reporting years  
73 beginning on or after September 1, 2020. This Rule 15.05(f)  
74 shall not apply to judges who are temporarily transferred or  
75 assigned to family court divisions; however, judges who have  
76 met the requirements of this Rule 15.05(f) shall be  
77 preferred for such transfers and assignments.

78 (g) Each lawyer who is a member or employee of the  
79 general assembly may report in each reporting year credit  
80 for 15 hours of continuing legal education for service  
81 during that reporting year's regular legislative session.

82 Such credits shall not satisfy the Rule 15.05(a)(1)  
83 requirement for **[three] two** credit hours devoted exclusively  
84 to ethics programs, seminars, or activities.

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