

Testimony
Rep Maida Townsend
February 10, 2015

Below is some background information pertinent to H.103. It may be helpful to the committee. I received it in early November from Rochelle Finzel of NCSL. Maida

From Rochelle Finzel at NCSL:

In reviewing my sources, I found at least 13 states that specifically mention emotional abuse, emotional distress, psychological abuse or mental harm in their definitions of domestic violence. The states include:

Arizona
Delaware
Hawaii
Illinois
Missouri
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
Oklahoma
Puerto Rico
Rhode Island
Virginia
West Virginia

You can find the statutory language in the following documents:
The Child Welfare Information Gateway is a service from the Children's Bureau at the federal department of Health and Human Services. Their document covers both civil and criminal definitions of abuse as well as any connections to child abuse and can be found here: https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/dfdomvio.cfm

The American Bar Association also has a 50-state statutory chart on civil protection orders, which includes the definition of domestic violence. You can find that chart here: http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/domestic_violence1/Resources/statutorysummarycharts/2014%20CPO%20Availability%20Chart.authcheckdam.pdf