



## Coercive Control

For additional information, please contact Alex McWard, Policy Analyst, Children and Families Program, [alex.mcward@ncsl.org](mailto:alex.mcward@ncsl.org)

NCSL identified 10 states with enacted legislation concerning coercive control. States define coercive control as a pattern of threatening or intimidating behavior that interferes with the free will of another person. Most of these states include coercive control as a form of domestic violence or abuse. California and Connecticut both provided examples of coercive control in their legislation. Louisiana legislation called for studies to be conducted on coercive control to address any necessary revisions for state laws.

Below is a chart of state legislation regarding coercive control.

State	Legislation
California	<a href="#">SB 374 (Enacted, 2021)</a> Defines coercive control as a pattern of behavior that unreasonable interferes with the free will of another person. Defines coercive control as disturbing the peace of another party. Authorizes a court to issue a protective order in case of coercive control. Lists examples of coercive control.
Colorado	<a href="#">HB 1228 (Enacted, 2021)</a> Sets requirements for domestic violence training. Includes coercive control and its effects on children, adults, and families as part of the training requirements.
Connecticut	<a href="#">SB 1091 (Enacted, 2021)</a> Defines coercive control of a family or house member as domestic violence. Lists examples of coercive control actions.
Hawaii	<a href="#">HB 566 (Enacted, 2021)</a> Lists coercive control over a family or household member as a petty misdemeanor.  <a href="#">HB 2425 (Enacted, 2020)</a> Includes coercive control as a form of domestic abuse. Defines coercive control as a pattern of threatening, humiliating, or intimidating actions used to frighten, harm, or punish an individual. Includes a list of behavior that that qualifies as coercive control.
Kentucky	<a href="#">HB 276 (Enacted, 2017)</a> Defines domestic violence as a pattern of physical, sexual, psychological, or environmental coercive control.
Louisiana	<a href="#">HCR 79 (Enacted, 2017)</a> Acknowledges that current domestic abuse crimes do not take into consideration the non-physical element of coercive control involved in domestic abuse. Requests the state laws of domestic violence to be studies to address the need for any revisions.
Mississippi	<a href="#">HB 1386 (Enacted, 2020)</a> Defines coercive control as a form of domestic violence.
Nevada	<a href="#">AB 60 (Enacted, 2019)</a> Revises the definition of domestic violence to include coercion.
New York	<a href="#">SB 2625 (Enacted, 2019)</a> Expands domestic violence crimes to include coercion.
Washington	<a href="#">HB 1320 (Enacted, 2021)</a>

Compiled by the National Conference of State Legislatures, March 2022

Please note: links to external websites and reports are for informational purposes only and do not indicate NCSL's endorsement of the content on those sites.



## Coercive Control

	Defines coercion as a form of mental abuse. Defines sexual coercion as a form of sexual abuse.
--	--