
DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Leger

HB No. 33

Abstract: Creates the Witness Protection Services Board and provides for protection services for certain witnesses in criminal cases.

Proposed law (R.S. 15:1503) defines "critical witness", "board", "immediate family of a witness", "prosecuting attorney", and "witness".

Proposed law (R.S. 15:1504) creates the Witness Protection Services Board within the office of the governor and provides for the powers and duties of the board.

Proposed law (R.S. 15:1505) provides for immunity for the board and its members in providing or failing to provide witness protection services.

Proposed law (R.S. 15:1506) provides for the following services for witnesses and immediate family members of witnesses:

- (1) Any necessary armed protection or escort, marked or unmarked surveillance, or periodic visits or contact by law enforcement officials prior, during, or subsequent to a criminal proceeding.
- (2) Physical relocation to an alternate shelter, housing, or residence.
- (3) Reasonable housing expenses.
- (4) Transportation or storage of personal possessions.
- (5) Basic living expenses.
- (6) Assistance in assumption of a new identity and relocation.
- (7) Petition for a protective order on any individual identified as a threat to a critical witness.

Proposed law (R.S. 15:1507) provides for the petition procedure for requesting witness protection services.

Proposed law (R.S. 15:1508) provides for temporary witness protection services in exigent circumstances.

Proposed law (R.S. 15:1509) provides for a written memorandum of understanding regarding witness protection services and the agreements between the witness and the state regarding those services.

Proposed law (R.S. 15:1510) provides for the refusal of witness protection services.

Proposed law (R.S. 15:1511) provides for the relocation of witnesses within public schools.

Proposed law (R.S. 15:1512) provides that no right of action is created.

Proposed law (R.S. 15:1513) provides for a liaison with the U.S. Marshal's Office.

Proposed law (R.S. 15:1514) provides for the confidentiality of records regarding witness protection services.

Proposed law shall be implemented to the extent that funds have been appropriated by the legislature or made available through grants or federal funds.

(Adds R.S. 15:1501-1514 and R.S. 36:4(I); Repeals R.S. 15:262)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill.

1. Provides that proposed law is to be implemented upon funding through legislative appropriation or through grants or federal funds.