

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 97 (SB 58)

2025 Regular Session

Connick

Existing law provides that the crime of indecent behavior with juveniles is committed when an offender commits any of the following with the intention of arousing or gratifying the sexual desires of either person.

- (1) Any lewd or lascivious act upon the person or in the presence of any child under the age of 17, where there is an age difference of greater than two years between the two persons.
- (2) The transmission, delivery or utterance of any textual, visual, written, or oral communication depicting lewd or lascivious conduct, text, words, or images to any person reasonably believed to be under the age of 17 and reasonably believed to be at least two years younger than the offender.

New law retains existing law and provides that grooming a child under the age of 17, where the offender is at least four years older than the child, will also constitute indecent behavior with juveniles. New law provides that completion or attempt to complete the lewd or lascivious act is not necessary to constitute grooming. New law further provides that lack of knowledge of the child's age is not a defense.

New law defines the term "grooming" as the pursuit of an intimate relationship with a child under the age of 17 by means of seduction, emotional manipulation, threats, promises, coercion, enticement, isolation, or extortion with the specific intent to commit a sex offense against the minor.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 14:81(A)(1) and (C); adds R.S. 14:81(A)(3))