

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 126

BY REPRESENTATIVE MANDIE LANDRY

COURTS: Provides relative to the use of a facility dog by a witness during certain circumstances

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AN ACT

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To amend and reenact R.S. 15:284(A), relative to the use of facility dogs; to provide for the

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use of facility dogs by victims of sex offenses; and to provide for related matters.

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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Section 1. R.S. 15:284(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

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§284. Facility dogs; use in court; procedure

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A. The court shall allow a witness who is either under eighteen years of age,

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~~or~~ who has a developmental disability as defined in R.S. 28:451.2, or who is the

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victim of a sex offense as defined in R.S. 15:541 ~~to have~~ be accompanied by a

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facility dog, if available, ~~accompany them~~ while testifying in court.

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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)]

HB 126 Original	2026 Regular Session	Mandie Landry
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Abstract: Authorizes the use of facility dogs by witnesses who are the victims of a sex offense.

Present law requires the court to allow a witness who is either under 18 years of age or who has a developmental disability to be accompanied by a facility dog, if available, while testifying in court.

Present law authorizes the court to allow the use of facility dogs in cases involving all other witnesses.

Present law requires notice to the court and provides for jury instructions regarding the role of the facility dog.

Present law defines "facility dog" as a dog that is certified and a graduate of an assistance dog organization that is accredited and is specially trained to provide emotional support to witnesses testifying in judicial proceedings without causing a distraction during the proceedings.

Present law provides that the law be referred to and cited as "Duvall's Law".

Proposed law retains present law and requires the court to allow a witness who is the victim of a sex offense to be accompanied by a facility dog, if available, while testifying in court.

(Amends R.S. 15:284(A))