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## DIGEST

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HB 126 Original

2026 Regular Session

Mandie Landry

**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))