

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 166

BY SENATOR SEABAUGH

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE. Provides for responsive verdicts for specific crimes. (8/1/26)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 814(A)(1), (3), and (5) and to repeal Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 814(A)(7), relative to responsive verdicts; to change responsive verdicts involving the offenses of first and second degree murder and manslaughter; to remove responsive verdicts involving negligent homicide; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 814(A)(1), (3), and (5) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Art. 814. Responsive verdicts; in particular

A. The only responsive verdicts which may be rendered when the indictment charges the following offenses are:

1. First Degree Murder:

Guilty.

Guilty of attempted first degree murder.

Guilty of second degree murder.

Guilty of attempted second degree murder.

- Guilty of manslaughter.
Guilty of negligent homicide.
Not guilty.
- (3) Manslaughter:
Guilty.
Guilty of negligent homicide.
Not guilty.
- (4) Negligent homicide:
Guilty.
Not guilty.

Proposed law, in addition to the current responsive verdicts, adds the following responsive verdicts to the following offenses.

- (1) First Degree Murder:
Guilty of attempted first degree murder.
Guilty of attempted second degree murder.
Guilty of attempted manslaughter.
- (2) Second Degree Murder:
Guilty of attempted second degree murder.
Guilty of attempted manslaughter.
- (3) Manslaughter:
Guilty of attempted manslaughter.

Proposed law further removes the responsive verdict of "guilty of negligent homicide" from the offenses of second degree murder and manslaughter.

Proposed law repeals the responsive verdict provisions for the offense of negligent homicide.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends C.Cr.P. Art. 814(A)(1), (3), and (5); repeals C.Cr.P. Art. 814(A)(7))