
DIGEST

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HB 998 Original

2026 Regular Session

Freeman

Abstract: Provides relative to the examination and medical care of victims of human trafficking-related offenses and domestic violence offenses that involve strangulation.

Present law (R.S. 15:622) provides for sexual assault collection kits.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law defines the term "forensic medical examination".

Proposed law amends present law as follows:

- (1) Adds victims of human trafficking-related offenses and victims of domestic violence offenses that involve strangulation as recipients of forensic medical examinations.
- (2) Provides for additional assessments within a forensic medical examination relative to patient interviews, collection and evaluation of evidence, testing, and medication.

Proposed law defines the terms "human trafficking-related offense" and "domestic violence".

Present law (RS 40:1216.1) provides for procedures for survivors of a sexually oriented criminal offense.

Proposed law amends present law to include survivors of human trafficking-related offenses and domestic violence offenses that involve strangulation.

Present law provides for the procedures that are included within the examination and treatment of sexual assault survivors.

Proposed law amends present law to provide for additional assessments within the examination and treatment relative to patient interviews, collection and evaluation of evidence, testing, and medication.

Present law prohibits the direct billing of a survivor of a sexually oriented criminal offense for any healthcare services rendered in conducting a forensic medical examination.

Proposed law amends present law as follows:

- (1) Adds survivors of human trafficking-related offenses and domestic violence offenses that involve strangulation as individuals who are exempt from direct billing.
- (2) Provides what is considered medical treatment and what is exempt from forensic costs or billing.
- (3) Provides for billing through the insurance provider of the patient, if applicable.

Proposed law defines the terms "human trafficking-related offense" and "domestic violence".

Present law (RS 46:1816) provides for the Crime Victims Reparations Fund.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the fund to be composed of monies from the collection of unclaimed prize money provided in present law (R.S. 4:176 and R.S. 27:94, 252, 394, and 610) exclusively used to pay the expenses associated with healthcare services of victims of sexually oriented criminal offenses, including forensic medical examinations.

Proposed law retains present law and adds expenses associated with the healthcare services of victims of human trafficking-related offenses and victims of domestic violence offenses that involve strangulation.

Present law (R.S. 46:1822) provides for forensic medical examinations and reimbursement for these examinations.

Proposed law retains present law and provides for services, procedures, testing, and medication that the reimbursement amounts encompass.

Proposed law provides for duties of the La. State Law Institute relative to the proper placement of proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 15:622 (A)(intro. para.), (2), and (3), the heading of Part III-A of Subchapter D of Ch. 5-D of Title 40 of the La. Rev. Stat. of 1950, R.S. 40:1216.1(A)(intro. para.), (1)(b), (2)(intro. para.), (b), (c)-(e), (5)(intro. para.), (6), and (7), and (G)(1), R.S. 46:1816(B)(intro. para.) and (8) and 1822(A); Adds R.S. 15:622(A)(6) and (7) and R.S. 40:1216.1(A)(5)(c) and (H)(8) and (9))