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## DIGEST

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HB 579 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

LaFleur

**Abstract:** Expands and clarifies protections and rights of sexual assault survivors.

Present law provides a survivor of sexual assault the right to make a written and oral statement as to the impact of the crime at any hearing before the Bd. of Pardons or the committee on parole.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes a victim to direct a statement to the inmate or defendant unless the statement disrupts the decorum of the hearing.

Present law provides that public disclosure of the name of a juvenile crime victim by a public official, officer, or agency is not prohibited when the crime results in the death of the victim.

Proposed law deletes present law.

Present law provides for the Sexual Assault Survivor Bill of Rights.

Present law provides that one of these rights is the right to have an unreported sexual assault collection kit preserved, without charge, for at least 20 years.

Proposed law amends present law to provide the right to have a sexual assault collection kit, rather than an unreported sexual assault collection kit, preserved without charge for the maximum period required by law, but not less than 20 years.

Present law prohibits public officials, agencies, and attorneys from disclosing the identity or personal information of minor victims and victims of sex or human trafficking offenses, with limited exceptions. Authorizes victims to waive confidentiality and requires attorneys to take certain steps to protect the identities of persons under 18 years of age.

Proposed law provides that present law does not apply to minor victims or victims of sex or human trafficking offenses when the crime results in their death, including criminal homicide or any offense where death is an element. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law authorizes individuals to submit complaints regarding violations of the Sexual Assault Survivor Bill of Rights to the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children for oversight.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally authorizes complaints to be submitted to the House Select Committee on Women and Children.

(Amends R.S. 46:1844(O)(1) and (W)(1)(a) and 1845(C)(2) and (D); Adds R.S. 46:1844(W)(1)(d))

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Allow a victim to direct a victim impact statement to the inmate or defendant unless the statement disturbs the decorum of the hearing.
2. Prohibit the disclosure of the name of a victim under 18 years of age.
3. Permit the release of a minor victim's name when the crime committed against the victim includes the victim's death as an element, or when the offense is a sex offense or human trafficking related offense.
4. Authorize complaints of violations of present law (R.S. 46:1845) to be made to the House Select Committee on Women and Children.
5. Permit discretionary funds provided through the federal Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program to be used to update and provide information and notice required by law.
6. Require that notice be developed in consultation with sexual assault service providers and subject to approval by the La. Sexual Assault Oversight Commission.