

ACT No. 815

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 579

BY REPRESENTATIVES LAFLEUR, BOUDREAUX, BOYD, BRASS, BRYANT, WILFORD CARTER, CHASSION, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, GREEN, DANA HENRY, KERNER, LACOMBE, MANDIE LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, MOORE, MURRAY, NEWELL, SPELL, STAGNI, TAYLOR, WALTERS, AND YOUNG

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 46:1844(O)(1) and (W)(1)(a) and 1845(C)(2) and (12) and (D)
3 and to enact R.S. 46:1844(W)(1)(d) and 1845(C)(13), relative to the Sexual Assault
4 Survivor Bill of Rights; to provide relative to certain rights of a sexual assault
5 survivor; to provide relative to the preservation of sexual assault collection kits; to
6 provide for the confidentiality of certain information; to provide for exceptions; to
7 provide for the right to be notified of the rights contained within the Sexual Assault
8 Survivor Bill of Rights; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 46:1844(O)(1) and (W)(1)(a) and 1845(C)(2) and (12) and (D) are
11 hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 46:1844(W)(1)(d) and 1845(C)(13) are hereby
12 enacted to read as follows:

13 §1844. Basic rights for victim and witness

14 * * *

15 O. Notification of pardon or parole.

16 (1) The Board of Pardons or the committee on parole, respectively, shall
17 notify the victim or the victim's family and all persons who file a victim registration
18 and notification form and the appropriate district attorney that a hearing has been set
19 for the person convicted of the crime. The victim or victim's family shall have the
20 right to make written and oral statements as to the impact of the crime at any hearing
21 before the board or committee and to rebut any statements or evidence introduced
22 by the inmate or defendant. The victim or the victim's family, a victim advocacy

1 group, and the district attorney or his representative may also appear before the board
 2 or committee in person or by means of teleconference or telephone communication.
 3 The board shall not prohibit the statement from being directed toward the inmate or
 4 defendant unless the statement disturbs the decorum of the hearing.

5 * * *

6 W. Confidentiality of crime victims who are minors, victims of sex offenses,
 7 and victims of human trafficking-related offenses.

8 (1)(a) In order to protect the identity and provide for the safety and welfare
 9 of crime victims who are minors under the age of eighteen years and of victims of
 10 sex offenses or human trafficking-related offenses, notwithstanding any provision
 11 of law to the contrary, all public officials and officers and public agencies, including
 12 but not limited to all law enforcement agencies, sheriffs, district attorneys, judicial
 13 officers, clerks of court, the Crime Victims Reparations Board, and the Department
 14 of Children and Family Services or any division thereof, shall not publicly disclose
 15 the name, address, contact information, or identity of crime victims who at the time
 16 of the commission of the offense are minors under eighteen years of age or of
 17 victims of sex offenses or human trafficking-related offenses, regardless of the date
 18 of commission of the offense. The confidentiality of the identity of the victim who
 19 at the time of the commission of the offense is a minor under eighteen years of age
 20 or the victim of a sex offense or human trafficking-related offense may be waived
 21 by the victim. ~~The public disclosure of the name of the juvenile crime victim by any~~
 22 ~~public official or officer or public agency is not prohibited by this Subsection when~~
 23 ~~the crime resulted in the death of the victim.~~ Nothing in this Subsection shall be
 24 construed to require the redaction of a victim's name when the named victim is the
 25 one requesting such documents, reports, or any other records.

26 * * *

27 (d) The provisions of Subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this Paragraph shall not
 28 apply to the following:

1 (i) Except as provided in Item (d)(ii), a minor under the age of eighteen years
2 who is the victim of any criminal homicide enumerated in R.S. 14:29 or of any other
3 criminal offense in which the death of the victim is an element.

4 (ii) A victim of any sex offense or human trafficking-related offense who is
5 also the victim of any criminal homicide enumerated in R.S. 14:29 or of any other
6 criminal offense in which death of the victim is an element, when the death is related
7 to the sex offense or human trafficking-related offense.

8 * * *

9 §1845. Sexual Assault Survivor Bill of Rights

10 * * *

11 C. A sexual assault survivor shall have the following rights:

12 * * *

13 (2) The right to have ~~an unreported~~ a sexual assault collection kit preserved,
14 without charge, ~~for at least twenty years~~ for the maximum period provided by law
15 or policy, but in no event fewer than twenty years.

16 * * *

17 (12) The right to be notified of all of the rights contained in this Subsection.

18 (13) The right to retain any other rights that a survivor may have under any
19 other law of this state.

20 D. Any complaint about a violation of this Section may be submitted directly
21 to the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children or the House Select
22 Committee on Women and Children for legislative oversight.

23 Section 2. Any discretionary funds provided to the state through the Services,
24 Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women Formula Grant
25 Program, administered by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), shall be used to
26 update and provide information on the notice required in accordance with this Act. The
27 notice shall be developed in consultation with sexual assault service providers and is subject
28 to approval by the Louisiana Sexual Assault Oversight Commission.

29 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
30 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

1 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
2 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
3 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____