

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 67

2025 Regular Session

Horton

June 10, 2025

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 67 by Representative Horton, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

1. That the set of Senate Floor Amendments by Senator Morris (#2185) be rejected.
2. That the following amendments to the Engrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, delete lines 15 through 17 in their entirety and insert the following:

"(3) When the offender acts without the consent of the victim, the victim is thirteen years of age or older but less than seventeen years of age, and the difference between the age of the victim and the age of the offender is three years or greater. Lack of knowledge of the victim's age shall not be a defense."

Respectfully submitted,

<div>Representative Dodie Horton</div>	<div>Senator Heather Miley Cloud</div>
<div>Representative Bryan Fontenot</div>	<div>Senator Patrick Connick</div>
<div>Representative Debbie Villio</div>	<div>Senator John C. "Jay" Morris III</div>

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

HB 67

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Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

CRIME/SEX OFFENSES: Provides relative to sex offenses committed against minors

Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:

1. Changed the proposed law circumstance that constitutes second degree rape from when the offender acts without the consent of the victim, the victim is 13 years of age or older but less than 17 years of age, and the offender is at least 17 years of age to when the victim is 13 years of age or older but less than 17 years of age and the age difference of the victim and the offender is four years or greater.
2. Provided that lack of knowledge of the victim's age shall not be a defense to second degree rape committed under the circumstance contained in proposed law.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Provide that an additional circumstance that constitutes second degree rape is when the offender acts without the consent of the victim, the victim is 13 years of age or older but less than 17 years of age, and the difference between the age of the victim and the age of the offender is three years or greater.
2. Provide that lack of knowledge of the victim's age shall not be a defense.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law (R.S. 14:42.1) provides for the crime of second degree rape.

Proposed law retains present law generally.

Present law (R.S. 14:42.1) provides that second degree rape is rape committed when the anal, oral, or vaginal sexual intercourse is deemed to be without the lawful consent of the victim because it is committed under any one or more of the following circumstances:

- (1) When the victim is prevented from resisting the act by force or threats of physical violence under circumstances where the victim reasonably believes that such resistance would not prevent the rape.
- (2) When the victim is incapable of resisting or of understanding the nature of the act by reason of stupor or abnormal condition of the mind produced by a narcotic or anesthetic agent or other controlled dangerous substance administered by the offender and without the knowledge of the victim.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that rape committed when the offender acts without the consent of the victim, the victim is 13 years of age or older but less than 17 years of age, and the difference between the age of the victim and the age of the offender is three years or greater constitutes second degree rape.

Proposed law provides that lack of knowledge of the victim's age shall not be a defense.

Present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 571.1) provides for a 30-year time period, commencing from when the victim attains the age of 18, to prosecute the following present law offenses when the offense involves a victim under the age of 18:

- (1) Attempted first degree rape, also formerly titled aggravated rape (R.S. 14:27, R.S. 14:42).
- (2) Attempted second degree rape, also formerly titled forcible rape (R.S. 14:27, R.S. 14:42.1).
- (3) Sexual battery (R.S. 14:43.1).
- (4) Second degree sexual battery (R.S. 14:43.2).
- (5) Oral sexual battery (R.S. 14:43.3).
- (6) Human trafficking (R.S. 14:46.2(B)(2) or (3)).
- (7) Trafficking of children for sexual purposes (R.S. 14:46.3).
- (8) Felony carnal knowledge of a juvenile (R.S. 14:80).
- (9) Indecent behavior with juveniles (R.S. 14:81).
- (10) Pornography involving juveniles (R.S. 14:81.1).
- (11) Prostitution of persons under 18 (R.S. 14:82.1).
- (12) Enticing persons into prostitution (R.S. 14:86).
- (13) Crime against nature (R.S. 14:89).
- (14) Aggravated crime against nature (R.S. 14:89.1).
- (15) Crime against nature by solicitation (R.S. 14:89.2(B)(3)).

Proposed law changes the applicable crimes in the list from the enumerated present law offenses to the perpetration or attempted perpetration of, conspiracy to commit, or commission of any sex offense as defined in present law (R.S. 15:541(24)) that involves a victim under 18 years of age.

Present law (C.E. Art. 804) provides for exceptions to the hearsay rule.

Proposed law retains present law generally.

Present law (C.E. Art. 804(B)(5)) provides that a statement made by a person under 12 years of age that is one of initial or otherwise trustworthy complaint of sexually assaultive behavior is an exception to the hearsay rule when the declarant is unavailable as a witness.

Proposed law amends present law to change the age from 12 years to 13 years.

(Amends C.Cr.P. Art. 571.1 and C.E. Art. 804(B)(5); Adds R.S. 14:42.1(A)(3))