

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 696 (HB 1064)

2026 Regular Session

Freiberg

New law provides for the findings and intentions of the legislature regarding domestic violence and the need for a domestic violence intervention court.

New law establishes a two-year pilot program known as the "Domestic Violence Intervention Court" (DVIC) within the 19th JDC.

New law provides that the program is voluntary for defendants convicted of misdemeanor or felony offenses. Further provides that participants will be supervised by the presiding judge, that their participation will be added as a condition to probation, and that the participants must regularly appear in court, comply with case plans, and be subject to graduated sanctions and incentives.

New law requires the DVIC to provide batterer intervention programs, clinical assessment and individualized treatment planning, substance abuse and mental health screening, as well as employment readiness, housing, and transportation assistance, and case management services.

New law authorizes domestic violence victims to voluntarily participate in the DVIC. Requires that victims receive a victim services advocate, notification of court proceedings, compliance statuses of the defendant, and information pertaining to safety planning and referrals, local domestic violence shelters, trauma-informed support groups, as well as attendance of the victim services advocate at court hearings. New law authorizes a victim to request GPS monitoring of the defendant. Further authorizes the victim to be awarded restitution, when appropriate.

New law requires the DVIC to operate with a coordinated team that includes the presiding judge, the district attorney, the public defender, a probation officer, clinical provider, program coordinator, and victim services advocate.

New law requires the DVIC to collect data on recidivism rates, program completion rates, compliance with protective orders, and victim safety indicators. Further requires the 19th JDC to report to the legislature and the La. Supreme Court upon the conclusion of the two-year pilot program.

New law provides for the termination of the pilot program at the end of two years unless the legislature extends the program.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 13:842.5)