Prior law provided that any person who commits the crime of domestic abuse battery shall be punished as follows:

(1) On a first conviction, the offender shall be fined not less than $300 nor more than $1,000 and shall be imprisoned for not less than 10 days nor more than six months. Imposition or execution of sentence shall not be suspended unless the offender participates in a court-approved domestic abuse prevention program and either of the following occur:

(a) The offender is placed on probation with a minimum condition that he serve two days in jail.

(b) The offender is placed on probation with a minimum condition that he perform four eight-hour days of court-approved community service activities.

(2) On a conviction of a second offense, the offender shall be fined not less than $750 nor more than $1,000 and shall be imprisoned for not less than 30 days nor more than six months. At least 48 hours of the sentence imposed shall be served without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence. Imposition or execution of the remainder of the sentence shall not be suspended unless the offender participates in a court-approved domestic abuse prevention program and either of the following occur:

(a) The offender is placed on probation with a minimum condition that he serve 15 days in jail.

(b) The offender is placed on probation with a minimum condition that he perform 30 eight-hour days of court-approved community service activities.

(3) If the victim is pregnant and the offender knows that the victim is pregnant at the time of the commission of the offense, the offender, who is sentenced under the provisions of prior law, shall be required to serve a minimum of 30 days without benefit of suspension of sentence for a first conviction, upon a second conviction shall serve a minimum of six months imprisonment without benefit of suspension of sentence, upon a third conviction shall serve a minimum of two years with or without hard labor without benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence, and upon a fourth and subsequent offense shall serve a minimum of four years at hard labor without benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence.

New law retains prior law penalties, except it increases the minimum term of imprisonment of prior law as follows:

(1) On a first conviction, new law increases the minimum term of imprisonment to not less than 30 days with at least 48 hours of the sentence being served without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence. Imposition of the remainder of the sentence shall not be suspended unless the offender participates in a court-approved domestic abuse prevention program and either serves four days in jail or participates in eight, eight-hour days of community service.

(2) On a conviction of a second offense, new law increases the minimum term of imprisonment to not less than 60 days with at least 96 hours of the sentence being served without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence. Imposition of the remainder of the sentence shall not be suspended unless the offender participates in a court-approved domestic abuse prevention program and either serves 30 days in jail or participates in 30 eight-hour days of community service.

(3) If the victim of domestic abuse battery is pregnant, new law increases the minimum term of imprisonment to 45 days for a first conviction and one year for a second conviction.

Effective August 15, 2011.

(Amends R.S. 14:35.3(C), (D)(intro. para.) and (1), and (K))