2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 603

BY REPRESENTATIVES WILLMOTT, ARMES, BARROW, BOUIE, BROWN, HENRY BURNS, CARTER, COX, EDWARDS, FOIL, HAZEL, HILL, HOWARD, JEFFERSON, MIKE JOHNSON, ROBERT JOHNSON, LEGER, MIGUEZ, MONTOUCET, REYNOLDS, SIMON, SMITH, AND ST. GERMAIN

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact Children's Code Articles 1149 and 1160 and R.S. 46:2403(D), relative
3	to laws providing for safe and anonymous relinquishment of an infant known as the
4	safe haven law; to provide for duties of the Department of Children and Family
5	Services relative to public awareness of the safe haven law; to provide for
6	communication plans and dissemination of public information by the Department of
7	Children and Family Services; to provide for information and training resources to
8	be utilized by designated emergency care facilities; to authorize funding by the
9	Children's Trust Fund of outreach concerning the safe haven law; to provide for
10	reporting; to provide a short title; and to provide for related matters.
11	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
12	Section 1. Children's Code Articles 1149 and 1160 are hereby amended and
13	reenacted to read as follows:
14	Art. 1149. Purpose; short title
15	A. The purpose of this Chapter is to provide a mechanism whereby any
16	parent may relinquish the care of an infant to the state in safety, anonymity, and
17	without fear of prosecution.
18	B. This Chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Safe Haven Law".
19	* * *
20	Art. 1160. Additional regulations; Administrative Procedure Act; reporting
21	A. The department, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act,
22	shall promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this
23	Chapter, including but not limited to the following:

HB NO. 603 ENROLLED

1	(1) Notice to the public of the existence of designated emergency care
2	facilities and the use of safe havens through the following actions:
3	(a) The establishment of a toll-free telephone number to direct individuals
4	to designated emergency care facilities.
5	(b) The provision of safe haven publicity and informational materials on the
6	department's website for review and download by the public.
7	(2)(a) Written information, training materials, and an instructional video to
8	be made available for download on the department's website, for the instruction of
9	representatives of emergency medical care facilities who are designated to receive
10	relinquished children and to interview relinquishing parents.
11	(b) The department shall review all information, materials, video, and any
12	other media produced in accordance with this Paragraph at least annually; and, to the
13	extent that funding is available for such purposes, shall update, revise, and reissue
14	these resources as the secretary of the department deems necessary.
15	(3) Procedures and forms informing a relinquishing parent about his right to
16	file a claim and be heard in accordance with Articles 1156 and 1157 of this Chapter
17	and his right to use the services of the voluntary registry in accordance with Chapter
18	15 of Title XII.
19	(4) Procedures for use by a physician in conducting the medical evaluation
20	of the child in accordance with Article 1153 of this Chapter.
21	(5) The department shall utilize existing funds to effectuate the provisions
22	of Paragraphs $(A)(1)$ and $(A)(2)$ of this Article.
23	B. In addition to any other duties as may be required by this Article, the
24	department shall develop and implement annually each of the following plans:
25	(1) An annual communication and public information action plan to increase
26	public awareness of the Safe Haven Law. This plan shall include, without limitation,
27	all of the following actions:
28	(a) Issuing media releases for distribution to print, radio, and television
29	media.
30	(b) Disseminating information through social media.

HB NO. 603 ENROLLED

government, and any other entities the secretary of the department appropriate.  (d) Undertaking any other communication or publicity activity of necessary by the secretary of the department and for which sufficient fun available.  (2)(a) An action plan providing for dissemination of information and t resources relating to the Safe Haven Law to designated emergency care facil to (b) To the extent the secretary of the department deems appropria contingent upon availability of funding for this purpose, the department m disseminate the information and resources provided for in Subparagraph (a)  Paragraph to any of the following:  (ii) Schools of medicine.  (iii) Schools of nursing.  (iii) Law enforcement training schools.  (iv) Firefighter training programs.  (v) Emergency medical service provider training programs.  (vi) Any other institutions that train professionals who typically we designated emergency care facility.  C. On or before January first annually, the department shall submit House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Hea Welfare a report addressing efforts undertaken in the period covered by the to raise public awareness of the Safe Haven Law. The report shall include be limited to a recapitulation of content of the communication and information action plan and action plan for dissemination of safe haven infor and training resources required by this Article.	1	(c) Conducting outreach to the public through collaborations with
4 appropriate. 5 (d) Undertaking any other communication or publicity activity of necessary by the secretary of the department and for which sufficient fun available. 8 (2)(a) An action plan providing for dissemination of information and the resources relating to the Safe Haven Law to designated emergency care facility. 9 resources relating to the Safe Haven Law to designated emergency care facility. 10 (b) To the extent the secretary of the department deems appropriate contingent upon availability of funding for this purpose, the department madisseminate the information and resources provided for in Subparagraph (a) 13 Paragraph to any of the following: 14 (ii) Schools of medicine. 15 (iii) Schools of medicine. 16 (iii) Law enforcement training schools. 17 (iv) Firefighter training programs. 18 (v) Emergency medical service provider training programs. 19 (vi) Any other institutions that train professionals who typically we designated emergency care facility. 20 designated emergency care facility. 21 C. On or before January first annually, the department shall submit to raise public awareness of the Safe Haven Law. The report shall include be limited to a recapitulation of content of the communication and information action plan and action plan for dissemination of safe haven information action plan and action plan for dissemination of safe haven information action plan and action plan for dissemination of safe haven information action plan and action plan for dissemination of safe haven information action plan and action plan for dissemination of safe haven information action plan and action plan for dissemination of safe haven information action plan and action plan for dissemination of safe haven information action plan and action plan for dissemination of safe haven information action plan and action plan for dissemination of safe haven information action plan and action plan for dissemination of safe haven information action plan for dissemination of safe haven information and information action plan for d	2	community-based organizations, child protection stakeholder groups, offices of state
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·	28	Section 2. R.S. 46:2403(D) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
* * *	29	§2403. Creation of the Children's Trust Fund
	30	* * *

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_

**ENROLLED** 

HB NO. 603