
DIGEST

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Leger

HB No. 254

Abstract: Authorizes certain individuals to view certain videotaped statements of a protected person.

Present law authorizes the use of videotaped statements of protected persons. Defines "protected person" as a crime witness or victim who is either under the age of 17 or has a developmental disability.

Present law provides that if a copy of the videotaped statement is provided to the defendant's attorney, only the defendant and his attorney are permitted to view the tape.

Proposed law changes present law and provides that in addition to the defendant and his attorney, the following persons, who are involved in preparing the defense of the instant charges, are authorized to view the videotaped statement: the attorney's regularly employed staff and any expert and investigator retained by the defense.

Present law provides that no copies of the videotaped statement shall be made by any person.

Proposed law amends present law and provides that transcripts and copies of the videotaped statement may be made if they will be used as exhibits for trial.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the transcripts and copies of the videotaped statement shall be securely retained by the defendant's attorney at all times and shall not be given to or viewed by an unauthorized party.

(Amends R.S. 15:440.5(C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill.

1. Amended the list of persons authorized to view the videotaped statement of a protected person to include only the attorney and his regularly employed staff, the defendant, and any expert and investigator retained by the defense.