

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 182

BY REPRESENTATIVES TRAVIS JOHNSON AND ECHOLS

NURSES: Provides relative to victims of sexual assault

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1216.1(A)(introductory paragraph) and (H)(3) and to enact  
3 R.S. 40:1216.1(H)(8), relative to examinations of victims of sexual assault; to require  
4 the presence of a qualified healthcare professional; to provide for definitions; to  
5 provide for duties of hospitals and healthcare providers; and to provide for related  
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 40:1216.1(A)(introductory paragraph) and (H)(3) are hereby  
9 amended and reenacted and R.S. 40:1216.1(H)(8) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §1216.1. Procedures for survivors of a sexually oriented criminal offense;  
11 immunity; regional plans; maximum allowable costs; definitions; documents  
12 requested by victim

13 A. All licensed hospitals and healthcare providers ~~in Louisiana~~ shall offer  
14 every sexual assault survivor information to receive the treatment provided for in this  
15 Section. All licensed hospitals with an emergency department shall maintain and  
16 make available a qualified healthcare professional to provide treatment and forensic  
17 examinations to victims of sexual assault during the emergency department's hours  
18 of operation. A licensed hospital or healthcare provider shall adhere to the following  
19 procedures if a person presents for treatment as a sexual assault survivor:

20 \* \* \*

1 H. For purposes of this Section the following definitions apply:

2 \* \* \*

3 (3) "Healthcare provider" means ~~either of the following:~~ a facility or  
4 institution providing healthcare services including but not limited to a hospital or  
5 other licensed inpatient center; ambulatory surgical or treatment center; skilled  
6 nursing facility; inpatient hospice facility; residential treatment center; diagnostic,  
7 laboratory, or imaging center; or rehabilitation or other therapeutic health setting.

8 (a) ~~A physician, sexual assault nurse examiner, or other healthcare~~  
9 ~~practitioner licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise authorized and trained to~~  
10 ~~perform a forensic medical examination.~~

11 (b) ~~A facility or institution providing healthcare services, including but not~~  
12 ~~limited to a hospital or other licensed inpatient center; ambulatory surgical or~~  
13 ~~treatment center; skilled nursing facility; inpatient hospice facility; residential~~  
14 ~~treatment center; diagnostic, laboratory, or imaging center; or rehabilitation or other~~  
15 ~~therapeutic health setting.~~

16 \* \* \*

17 (8) "Qualified healthcare professional" means a physician, sexual assault  
18 nurse examiner, or other healthcare practitioner licensed, certified, registered, or  
19 otherwise authorized and trained to perform a forensic medical examination. This  
20 may be accomplished through an agreement with a parish or regional sexual assault  
21 nurse examiner program, an on call sexual assault nurse examiner employed or  
22 contracted by the hospital, or a physician or medical provider with documented  
23 training and proficiency on the performance of a forensic medical examination.

24 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on August 1, 2028.

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**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)]

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HB 182 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Travis Johnson

**Abstract:** Requires a healthcare provider to make available a healthcare professional to conduct forensic sexual assault examinations.

Present law requires all licensed hospitals and healthcare providers to offer sexual assault survivors information about available treatment and to follow specified procedures when a survivor presents for care.

Proposed law requires all licensed hospitals with an emergency department to maintain and make available a qualified healthcare professional during hours of operation to provide treatment and conduct forensic examinations for victims of sexual assault.

Present law requires timely examination and treatment in a private setting by a qualified healthcare provider and access to an advocate when available.

Present law defines "healthcare provider" as both an entity that provides healthcare services, such as a hospital, and a person that provides healthcare services, such as a physician.

Proposed law modifies the definition of healthcare provider to describe healthcare entities and adds a definition of healthcare professional to describe the person providing healthcare services.

Proposed law provides that a "qualified healthcare professional" must have documented proof of training in forensic medical examinations.

Effective August 1, 2028.

(Amends R.S. 40:1216.1(A)(intro. para.) and (H)(3); Adds R.S. 40:1216.1(H)(8))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Provide that all hospitals with an emergency department shall maintain a qualified healthcare professional on site to conduct forensic examinations.
2. Provide for qualifications of healthcare professionals who conduct forensic examinations.
3. Provide for an effective date.