
DIGEST

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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.