

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 784

2026 Regular Session

Cox

May 27, 2026

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 784 by Representative Cox, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

1. That the set of Senate Committee Amendments by the Senate Committee on Judiciary C (#3061) be rejected.
2. That the following amendments to the Engrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, delete lines 2 through 4 in their entirety and insert "To amend and reenact R.S. 15:541(24)(a), (25)(b) through (o), 542(C)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (2), 542.1(A)(introductory paragraph) and (2)(a) and (c) and (d), and 543.1, R.S. 32:412(I)(1), (2), (4), and (5), and R.S. 40:1321(J), to enact R.S. 15:541(25)(p) and (q), 542.1(A)(2)(e), and 542.1.2(A)(5) and R.S. 32:412(I)(6), and"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, line 10, after "notification;" and before "and" insert "to provide relative to identification procedures for sex offenders; to provide for an effective date;"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 8, line 19, change "released" to "release"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 10, line 1, after "conviction" insert "for that offense"

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 10, line 2, after "Statutes" insert "of 1950"

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 18, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

"Section 3. R.S. 32:412(I) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
 §412. Amount of fees; credit or refund; duration of license; veteran designation; special needs or accommodation designations; disbursement of funds; renewal by mail or electronic commerce of Class "D" or "E" drivers' licenses; disposition of certain fees; exception
 * * *

I.(1) ~~The~~ A Louisiana driver's license, regardless of its class, issued to any person who is required to register as a sex offender pursuant to ~~R.S. 15:542 and R.S. 15:542.1~~ Chapter 3-B of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 shall contain a restriction quick response code which declares that or a QR code on the back of the driver's license for the purposes of assisting law enforcement in

determining whether or not the license holder is a sex offender. The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall comply with the provisions of this Subsection and the driver's license shall include the words "sex offender" which shall be orange in color.

(2) Any person to whom this Subsection applies shall carry upon his person the last driver's license issued to him. A person who is issued a driver's license pursuant to this Subsection shall carry his driver's license on his person at all times when he is outside of his residence.

* * *

(4) Any person to whom who is subject to this Subsection applies shall personally appear at a motor vehicle field office to renew his driver's license every year, in addition to the yearly reregistration pursuant to R.S. 15:542 et seq. Reregistration shall include the submission of current information to the department and the verification of registration information, including the street address and telephone number of the registrant; name, street address, and telephone number of the registrant's employer, and any other registration information that may need to be verified. Upon successful completion of reregistration, the bureau shall electronically transmit this fact the completed reregistration to the office of motor vehicles which may then proceed to renew the driver's license. In order to reimburse the office of motor vehicles for the cost of a yearly issuance, the The regular renewal fee shall be collected at each renewal pursuant to this Subsection.

(5) Whoever intentionally fails to meet the requirements of this Subsection shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

(5)(6) The provisions of this This Subsection shall apply applies to all registered sex offenders regardless of the date of conviction. This Subsection does not apply to any registered sex offender who possesses a special identification card pursuant to R.S. 40:1321(J). A registered sex offender who has been issued a driver's license pursuant to this Subsection shall forfeit his driver's license to the office of motor vehicles if he subsequently obtains a special identification card pursuant to R.S. 40:1321(J). Any registered sex offender who has both a driver's license and a special identification card shall have a quick response code or QR code on his driver's license and special identification card, as required by this Subsection.

* * *

Section 4. R.S. 40:1321(J) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1321. State identification cards; special identification cards; issuance; veteran designation; special needs or accommodation designations; fees; expiration and renewal; exceptions; promulgation of rules; promotion of use; persons less than twenty-one years of age; the Protect and Save our Children Program; Selective Service Registration

* * *

J.(1) Any person required to register as a sex offender with the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information, as required by R.S. 15:542 et seq., pursuant to Chapter 3-B of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 shall obtain a special identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections which shall contain a restriction quick response code declaring that, or QR Code, on the back of the special identification card for the purposes of assisting law enforcement in determining whether or not the holder is a sex offender. This special identification card shall include the words "sex offender" in all capital letters which are orange in color and shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance. This special identification card shall be carried on the person The holder shall carry the special identification card on his person at all times by the individual required to register as a sex offender when he is outside of his residence.

(2) Each person required to carry a special identification card pursuant to this Subsection shall personally appear, annually, at a field office of the office of motor vehicles to renew obtain his or her special identification card but only after he or she has registered as an a sex offender pursuant to R.S. 15:542 et seq Chapter 3-B of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. Reregistration shall include includes the submission of current information to the department and the verification of this information, which shall include includes the street address and telephone number of the registrant; the name, street address, and telephone number of the

registrant's employer, and any registration information that may need to be verified by the bureau. ~~No special identification card shall be issued or renewed until the office of motor vehicles receives confirmation from the bureau~~ The office of motor vehicles shall not issue a special identification card until the bureau has confirmed to the office, electronically or by other means, that the reregistration of the sex offender has been completed.

(3) ~~The provisions of this~~ Except as provided in Paragraph (5) of this Subsection, this Subsection shall apply applies to all sex offenders who are required to register pursuant to R.S. 15:542 et seq. Chapter 3-B of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, regardless of the date of conviction.

(4) ~~Whoever violates~~ intentionally fails to meet the requirements of this Subsection shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars and not nor more than five hundred dollars; or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

(5) This Subsection does not apply to any registered sex offender who possesses a driver's license pursuant to R.S. 32:412(I). A registered sex offender who has been issued a special identification card pursuant to this Subsection shall forfeit his special identification card to the office of motor vehicles if he subsequently obtains a driver's license pursuant to R.S. 32:412(I). Any registered sex offender who has both a driver's license and a special identification card shall have a quick response code or QR code on his driver's license and special identification card, as required by this Subsection.

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AMENDMENT NO. 7

On page 18, at the beginning of line 5, change "Section 3." to "Section 5."

AMENDMENT NO. 8

On page 18, after line 5, add the following:

"Section 6. This Section and Sections 3 and 4 of this Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027."

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Vincent Cox III

Senator Regina Ashford Barrow

Representative Kellee Dickerson

Senator John C. "Jay" Morris III

Representative Debbie Villio

Senator Caleb Seth Kleinpeter

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)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

HB 784

2026 Regular Session

Cox

Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

SEX OFFENSE/REGISTRY: Provides relative to sex offender registration and notification requirements

Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:

1. Made technical changes.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Provide for the placement of a QR code, rather than a restriction code, on the back of the driver's license or special ID of a sex offender for the purposes of assisting law enforcement in determining whether or not the license or ID holder is a sex offender.
2. Remove the present law requirement for placement of the words "sex offender" in orange color on the driver's license or special ID.
3. Require a registered sex offender to carry his driver's license or special ID that is issued pursuant to present law on his person at all times when he is outside of his residence.
4. Provide for a penalty consisting of a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 or imprisonment for a maximum of six months for a person who intentionally fails to meet the requirements of present law relative to driver's licenses.
5. Require a registered sex offender who has been issued a driver's license pursuant to present law (R.S. 32:412(I)) to forfeit his driver's license to the office of motor vehicles (OMV) if he subsequently obtains a special ID card pursuant to present law (R.S. 40:1321(J)).
6. Require a registered sex offender who has been issued a special ID card pursuant to present law (R.S. 40:1321(J)) to forfeit his special ID card to the OMV if he subsequently obtains a driver's license pursuant to present law (R.S. 32:412(I)).
7. Remove present law relative to the annual appearance of a sex offender at the OMV to obtain a driver's license or special ID.
8. Clarify that the provisions governing the driver's licenses for sex offenders do not apply to sex offenders who have a special ID and that the provisions governing special IDs for sex offenders do not apply to sex offenders who have a driver's license.
9. Make technical changes.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law (R.S. 15:541) provides for definitions relative to the registration of sex offenders.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 15:541(24)(a)) defines the term "sex offense".

Proposed law amends present law to include unlawful deepfakes (R.S. 14:73.13) where minors are depicted engaging in sexual conduct.

Present law (R.S. 15:541(25)) defines the term "sexual offense against a victim who is a minor".

Proposed law amends present law as follows:

- (1) Reorganizes the offenses included within this term so that they appear in order according to statutory designation.
- (2) Provides that the crime of oral sexual battery within this term involves a victim who is under the age of 18.
- (3) Adds unlawful deepfakes (R.S. 14:73.13) where minors are depicted engaging in sexual conduct.
- (4) Adds indecent behavior with a juvenile when prosecuted under certain provisions of present law and the victim is under the age of 13.

Present law (R.S. 15:542) provides for the registration requirements of sex offenders and child predators.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires an offender to register and provide certain information to the appropriate law enforcement agencies in accordance with the time periods provided in present law.

Proposed law generally retains present law.

Proposed law provides that registration pertains to the offense that requires sex offender registration. Further provides that the offender has three business days to appear before the appropriate law enforcement agency for registration upon release from the initial period of confinement for the offense that required sex offender registration.

Present law (R.S. 15:542.1) provides for notification requirements of sex offenders and child predators.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that a person convicted of crime against nature (R.S. 14:89) is not required to furnish a photograph as required by present law.

Proposed law removes this provision of present law.

Present law provides for time periods to provide notification to law enforcement.

Proposed law generally retains present law and provides that the 21 business days to provide notification is upon release from the initial period of confinement for the offense that required sex offender registration.

Proposed law provides that after initial notifications are completed, it is not necessary for an offender to renew community notifications unless five years have elapsed since his last

notifications were sent if the offender is subsequently held for more than 30 days after being arrested or involuntarily committed to a mental health facility but then returns to the same residence address that was registered prior to arrest or confinement.

Present law (R.S. 15:542.1.2) provides for the duty of offenders to notify law enforcement of any change of their address, residence, or other registration information.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that after initial registration, an offender who is subsequently held for more than 30 days after an arrest or involuntarily commitment to a mental health facility is required to appear in person at the office of the appropriate law enforcement agency within three business days of establishing a new or additional physical residential address or of changes in information previously provided.

Proposed law provides that after initial notifications are completed, it is not necessary for an offender to renew community notifications unless five years have elapsed since his last notifications were sent if the offender is subsequently held for more than 30 days after being arrested or involuntarily committed to a mental health facility but then returns to the same residence address that was registered prior to arrest or confinement.

Proposed law provides for duties of the offender and the institution where he is incarcerated relative to the intended residence address of the offender upon release.

Present law (R.S. 15:543.1) provides for written notification by the courts and the form to be used relative to sex offenders.

Proposed law generally retains present law and amends present law as follows:

- (1) Provides that the court has the duty to provide a sex offender with the information necessary for awareness of any applicable requirements of supervised release pursuant to present law (Ch. 3-E of R.S. 15 of the La. Rev. Stat. of 1950).
- (2) Within the selection box for an aggravated offense as defined in present law (R.S. 15:541), provides an option for more than one conviction of an offense that requires registration pursuant to present law (R.S. 15:542 and 544(B)(2)(c)).
- (3) Provides notification that additionally, if the offense that requires registration as a sex offender involves a victim under the age of 13 and the offender is incarcerated as a result of the conviction, the offender is advised that he will be subjected to supervised release under present law upon release from incarceration. Further provides that a copy of relevant present law be provided to the offender.
- (4) Adds a static IP address within the particular Internet-related information that is to be provided to law enforcement.
- (5) Adds a cross reference to provisions contained in Title 29 of the La. Rev. Stat. relative to sex offenders who enter an emergency shelter during the declaration of an emergency.
- (6) Removes a provision that relieves any person convicted of a crime against nature (R.S. 14:89) from having to include a photograph when providing notification.
- (7) Relative to community notification, clarifies that the term of imprisonment is for conviction of the sex offense.
- (8) Provides notification that after initial registration, an offender who is subsequently arrested or involuntarily committed to a mental health facility and held for more than 30 days in prison or a mental health facility is required to appear in person at the office of the appropriate law enforcement agency where the offender is currently registered within three business days.

- (9) Provides that the renewal of community notifications is not necessary under certain circumstances unless five years have elapsed since the last notifications were sent. Further requires the offender to provide his intended residence address to the institution where he is incarcerated or confined within three days prior to release.
- (10) Provides notification to an offender who is not otherwise prohibited from using any social networking website relative to the designation of his online profile and the information to be included within the profile.

Present law (R.S. 32:412) provides relative to driver's licenses applicable to the general public of the state of La.

Proposed law generally retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 32:412(I)) provides for procedures, guidelines, requirements, penalties, and applicability associated with the issuance of driver's licenses to registered sex offenders.

Proposed law amends present law as follows:

- (1) Provides for the placement of a QR code, rather than a restriction code, on the back of the driver's license of a sex offender for the purposes of assisting law enforcement in determining whether or not the license holder is a sex offender.
- (2) Removes the present law requirement for placement of the words "sex offender" in orange color on the driver's license.
- (3) Requires a registered sex offender to carry his driver's license issued pursuant to present law on his person at all times when he is outside of his residence.
- (4) Provides for a penalty consisting of a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 or imprisonment for a maximum of six months for a person who intentionally fails to meet the requirements of present law.
- (5) Requires a registered sex offender who has been issued a driver's license pursuant to present law (R.S. 32:412(I)) to forfeit his driver's license to the office of motor vehicles (OMV) if he subsequently obtains a special ID card pursuant to present law (R.S. 40:1321(J)).

Present law (R.S. 40:1321) provides relative to special ID cards applicable to the general public of the state of La.

Proposed law generally retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 40:1321(J)) provides for procedures, guidelines, requirements, penalties, and applicability associated with the issuance of special ID cards to registered sex offenders.

Proposed law amends present law as follows:

- (1) Provides for the placement of a QR code, rather than a restriction code, on the back of the special ID of a sex offender for the purposes of assisting law enforcement in determining whether or not the ID holder is a sex offender.
- (2) Removes the present law requirement for placement of the words "sex offender" in orange color on the special ID.
- (3) Requires a registered sex offender to carry his special ID issued pursuant to present law on his person at all times when he is outside of his residence.
- (4) Provides for a penalty consisting of a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 or imprisonment for a maximum of six months for a person who, rather than violates, intentionally fails to meet the requirements of present law.

- (5) Requires a registered sex offender who has been issued a special ID card pursuant to present law (R.S. 40:1321(J)) to forfeit his special ID card to the OMV if he subsequently obtains a driver's license pursuant to present law (R.S. 32:412(I)).

Proposed law relative to driver's licenses and special ID cards becomes effective on Jan. 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 15:541(24)(a), (25)(b)-(o), 542(C)(1)(intro. para.) and (2), 542.1(A)(intro. para.) and (2)(a) and (c) and (d), and 543.1, R.S. 32:412(I)(1), (2), (4), and (5), and R.S. 40:1321(J); Adds R.S. 15:541(25)(p) and (q), 542.1(A)(2)(e), and 542.1.2(A)(5) and R.S. 32:412(I)(6); Repeals R.S. 15:542.1(A)(1)(e))