

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 321

BY REPRESENTATIVES FREEMAN AND MARCELLE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice to conduct a comprehensive review of the statutory framework and administrative procedures in order to establish uniform protocols for forensic medical examinations for survivors of domestic violence and to provide a consistent source of reimbursement for these examinations.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is committed to protecting the safety and well-being of all its citizens, particularly those who are victims of domestic and family violence; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence, including acts of strangulation and physical battery, often results in internal injuries and forensic evidence that requires specialized medical expertise for identification, documentation, and preservation; and

WHEREAS, while forensic medical examinations are a standardized component of the response to sexually oriented criminal offenses, a similar uniform standard for survivors of domestic violence is currently lacking in many jurisdictions across the state; and

WHEREAS, the lack of uniform protocols for domestic violence forensic examinations leads to inconsistencies in evidence collection, which can impede the successful prosecution of offenders and the ability of victims to secure protective orders; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 46:1822 provides a framework for the reimbursement of forensic medical examinations, ensuring that victims are not billed for the costs of evidence collection; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to clarify and streamline the reimbursement process to ensure that healthcare facilities and forensic examiners are promptly and fairly compensated for the specialized exams provided to survivors of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the utilization of forensic medical examinations for survivors of domestic violence not only aids in the judicial process but also provides victims with a comprehensive medical record of their trauma, which is essential for long-term healing and safety planning; and

WHEREAS, standardizing these examinations across the state would ensure that a victim in a rural parish receives the same high quality of forensic care and evidence preservation as a victim in a major metropolitan area.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice to conduct a comprehensive review of the statutory framework and administrative procedures in order to establish uniform protocols for forensic medical examinations for survivors of domestic violence and to provide a consistent source of reimbursement for these examinations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting this review, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice shall consider all of the following:

(1) Identification of current efficiencies, deficiencies, and potential conflicts in existing statutes and administrative procedures relative to forensic medical examinations.

(2) Development of recommendations for uniform protocols to ensure that forensic medical examinations for survivors of domestic violence are administered and available across the state in a consistent manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice may receive testimony, feedback, input, and data from all of the following:

- (1) The Louisiana Department of Health.
- (2) The Louisiana Department of Justice.
- (3) Practicing nurses who are trained sexual assault nurse examiners.
- (4) The Louisiana State Coroner's Association.
- (5) The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
- (6) Louisiana State Police.
- (7) The Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

- (8) The Louisiana District Attorneys Association.
- (9) The New Orleans Family Justice Center.
- (10) The Louisiana Forensic Nursing Coalition.
- (11) The Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police.
- (12) The Louisiana Hospital Association.
- (13) The Department of Children and Family Services.
- (14) The office of the governor.
- (15) Any other relevant stakeholders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice no later than sixty days prior to the start of the 2027 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution be submitted to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES