

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 724 (HB 1247)

2026 Regular Session

Spell

Existing law (R.S. 15:555) provides for the membership of the La. Sexual Assault Oversight Commission.

New law adds the statewide sexual assault nurse examiner, or SANE, coordinator or his designee as a member.

New law establishes the Sexual Assault Response Standards Subcommittee as a subcommittee of the La. Sexual Assault Oversight Commission and provides for the subcommittee's duties, membership, meetings, and procedures.

Existing law (R.S. 15:624) provides for sexually-oriented criminal offense data.

New law adds the statewide SANE coordinator as a recipient of the report of existing law data.

New law requires each La. Dept. of Health (LDH) regional medical director to submit respective regional sexual assault response plans to the chief medical officer within LDH, office of public health, and the statewide SANE coordinator with inclusion of identified regional gaps of access to forensic medical examinations by Feb. 15th of each year.

New law requires the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice (LCLE) to submit its grants and expenditures towards SANE services within each LDH region from the previous year to the statewide SANE coordinator by Feb. 15th of each year.

New law may be known and cited as the "Services For Survivors of Sexually Oriented Criminal Offenses Access Act".

New law provides for a statement of legislative findings and purpose.

New law defines "department", "forensic medical examination", "healthcare provider", "healthcare services", "reported sexual assault collection kit", "sexual assault collection kit", "sexually oriented criminal offense", "Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner" or "SANE", and "unreported sexual assault collection kit".

New law provides for the creation of the statewide SANE coordinator within the La. Dept. of Justice, requires training and minimum experience of the coordinator as a SANE nurse in accordance with applicable national or statewide guidelines, and provides for duties of the coordinator.

New law provides for the establishment and oversight of a statewide teleSANE training program and a mobile SANE program as managed within the public health regions of LDH to provide forensic medical examinations and support for survivors of sexually-oriented criminal offenses and provides for duties of the mobile SANE nurse or team.

New law requires all sexual assault collection kits used in a forensic medical examination to meet the standards developed by the La. Dept. of Justice in collaboration with the Sexual Assault Response Standards Subcommittee.

New law provides for procedures that a licensed hospital or healthcare provider is to adhere to if a person presents for treatment as a sexual assault survivor.

New law provides for a limitation of liability for any member of the hospital staff or a healthcare provider who, in good faith, notifies the appropriate law enforcement official.

New law provides for notification procedures and requires all reports by the hospital or healthcare provider staff member to be made through the appropriate law enforcement agency dispatch. Further requires the hospital or healthcare provider staff member to obtain a file number and the responding officer's name, documenting the date, time, method of

notification, and the name of the official who received the notification in order to comply with new law.

New law provides relative to the examination of every sexual assault survivor pursuant to the Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights, provides for adaptation of the examination and treatment, and provides for the opportunity to be afforded an advocate with privileged communications who remains present during the examination.

New law provides for the transfer, storage, maintenance, and disposal procedures governing sexual assault collection kits.

New law prohibits billing any survivor of a sexually oriented criminal offense for any healthcare services rendered in conducting a forensic medical examination and provides for exceptions.

New law requires the statewide SANE coordinator to make available to every hospital and healthcare provider a pamphlet containing an explanation of the billing process for services rendered pursuant to new law and requires every hospital and healthcare provider to provide a copy of the pamphlet to any person presented for treatment as a survivor of a sexually-oriented criminal offense.

New law constitutes the minimum standards for the operation and maintenance of hospitals pursuant to new law. Further provides that failure to comply with these standards may constitute grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of the healthcare provider's license by the appropriate licensing board or commission.

New law prohibits any hospital or healthcare provider from refusing to examine and assist a survivor on the grounds that the alleged offense occurred outside of or the survivor is not a resident of the jurisdiction.

New law provides for the submission of a reproduction of any written documentation resulting from the forensic medical examination of the survivor no later than 14 days after the healthcare provider receives the request or the healthcare provider completes the documentation, whichever is later.

New law requires written documentation to be reproduced and made available at no cost to the survivor and to be released only at the direction of a competent adult survivor. Further provides that the release of this documentation to the survivor does not invalidate the survivor's reasonable expectation of privacy and does not create public record.

New law provides for coordination between the statewide SANE coordinator and the mobile SANE nurse program with certain entities.

New law provides for duties of the La. Dept. of Justice and LDH relative to memorandums of understanding.

Existing law (R.S. 44:4.1) provides for public records exceptions.

New law adds a cross-reference to the existing law public records exceptions relative to reproduction of written documentation of a forensic medical examination provided to a survivor.

New law amends the definitions of "reported sexual assault collection kit", "sexual assault collection kit", and "unreported sexual assault collection kit" to provide a consistent definition throughout existing law (R.S. 15:622, 624, and 624.1, R.S. 40:1216.1, and R.S. 46:1842) and new law.

New law provides for duties of the La. State Law Institute relative to the proper placement of new law.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 3, 2026).

(Amends R.S. 15:622(A)(intro. para.) and (3)-(5), 624(A)(1)(intro. para.) and (B)-(D), and 624.1(B)(2), (C), and (I), R.S. 40:1216.1(H)(intro. para.), (5), and (7), R.S. 44:4.1(B)(27),

and R.S. 46:1842(intro. para.) and (14); Adds R.S. 15:555(A)(18), 557, 622(A)(6) and (7), and 624(E) and (F), R.S. 40:1228.1-1228.11, and R.S. 46:1842(20) and (21))