

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 634

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAHEN

CRIME: Provides relative to offenses against minors

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 14:43.1(A)(3)(introductory paragraph) and (C)(2), 43.2(C)(2)  
3 and (3)(introductory paragraph), 80(A)(1), 80.1(A), 81.1(E)(5)(a) and (b) and  
4 (G)(introductory paragraph), 81.2(A)(1) and (2)(introductory paragraph), (B)(1), (2),  
5 and (3)(a), 81.3(A)(1), (2), (3), and (5), (B)(1)(a) and (c) and (C)(1), 91.13(A),  
6 92(A)(introductory paragraph), 93(A), 93.2.3(A)(1), and 283(A)(3), relative to  
7 offenses against minors; to provide relative to the age of offenders; to raise the age  
8 of offenders to eighteen in certain offenses; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 14:43.1(A)(3)(introductory paragraph) and (C)(2), 43.2(C)(2) and  
11 (3)(introductory paragraph), 80(A)(1), 80.1(A), 81.1(E)(5)(a) and (b) and (G)(introductory  
12 paragraph), 81.2(A)(1) and (2)(introductory paragraph), (B)(1), (2), and (3)(a), 81.3(A)(1),  
13 (2), (3), and (5), (B)(1)(a) and (c) and (C)(1), 91.13(A), 92(A)(introductory paragraph),  
14 93(A), 93.2.3(A)(1), and 283(A)(3) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

15 §43.1. Sexual battery

16 A. Sexual battery is the intentional touching of the anus or genitals of the  
17 victim by the offender using any instrumentality or any part of the body of the  
18 offender, directly or through clothing, or the touching of the anus or genitals of the  
19 offender by the victim using any instrumentality or any part of the body of the  
20 victim, directly or through clothing, when any of the following occur:

21 \* \* \*

1 (3) The offender is ~~seventeen~~ eighteen years of age or older and any of the  
2 following exist:

3 \* \* \*

4 C.

5 \* \* \*

6 (2) Whoever commits the crime of sexual battery on a victim under the age  
7 of thirteen years when the offender is ~~seventeen~~ eighteen years of age or older shall  
8 be punished by imprisonment at hard labor for not less than twenty-five years nor  
9 more than ninety-nine years. At least twenty-five years of the sentence imposed  
10 shall be served without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence.

11 \* \* \*

12 §43.2. Second degree sexual battery

13 \* \* \*

14 C.

15 \* \* \*

16 (2) Whoever commits the crime of second degree sexual battery on a victim  
17 under the age of thirteen years when the offender is ~~seventeen~~ eighteen years of age  
18 or older shall be punished by imprisonment at hard labor for not less than twenty-five  
19 years nor more than ninety-nine years. At least twenty-five years of the sentence  
20 imposed shall be served without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of  
21 sentence.

22 (3) Any person who is ~~seventeen~~ eighteen years of age or older who commits  
23 the crime of second degree sexual battery shall be punished by imprisonment at hard  
24 labor for not less than twenty-five nor more than ninety-nine years, at least twenty-  
25 five years of the sentence imposed being served without benefit of parole, probation,  
26 or suspension of sentence, when any of the following conditions exist:

27 \* \* \*

28 §80. Felony carnal knowledge of a juvenile

29 A. Felony carnal knowledge of a juvenile is committed when:



1 five years nor more than ninety-nine years. At least twenty-five years of the  
2 sentence imposed shall be served without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension  
3 of sentence.

4 \* \* \*

5 G. In prosecutions for violations of this Section, the trier of fact may  
6 determine, utilizing the following factors, whether or not the person displayed or  
7 depicted in any photograph, videotape, film, or other video reproduction introduced  
8 in evidence was under the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen years at the time of filming or  
9 recording:

10 \* \* \*

11 §81.2. Molestation of a juvenile or a person with a physical or mental disability

12 A.(1) Molestation of a juvenile is the commission by anyone over the age of  
13 seventeen of any lewd or lascivious act upon the person or in the presence of any  
14 child under the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen, where there is an age difference of greater  
15 than two years between the two persons, with the intention of arousing or gratifying  
16 the sexual desires of either person, by the use of force, violence, duress, menace,  
17 psychological intimidation, threat of great bodily harm, or by the use of influence by  
18 virtue of a position of control or supervision over the juvenile. Lack of knowledge  
19 of the juvenile's age shall not be a defense.

20 (2) Molestation of a person with a physical or mental disability is the  
21 commission by anyone over the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen of any lewd or lascivious  
22 act upon the victim or in the presence of any victim with the intention of arousing  
23 or gratifying the sexual desires of either person, by the use of force, violence, duress,  
24 menace, psychological intimidation, threat of great bodily harm, or by the use of  
25 influence by virtue of a position of control or supervision over the victim, when any  
26 of the following conditions exist:

27 \* \* \*

28 B.(1) Whoever commits the crime of molestation of a juvenile, when the  
29 victim is thirteen years of age or older but has not yet attained the age of ~~seventeen~~

1 eighteen, shall be fined not more than five thousand dollars, or imprisoned, with or  
2 without hard labor, for not less than five nor more than ten years, or both. The  
3 defendant shall not be eligible to have his conviction set aside or his prosecution  
4 dismissed in accordance with the provisions of Code of Criminal Procedure Article  
5 893.

6 (2) Whoever commits the crime of molestation of a juvenile, when the victim  
7 is thirteen years of age or older but has not yet attained the age of ~~seventeen~~  
8 eighteen, and when the offender has control or supervision over the juvenile, shall  
9 be fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or imprisoned, with or without hard  
10 labor, for not less than five nor more than twenty years, or both. The defendant shall  
11 not be eligible to have his conviction set aside or his prosecution dismissed in  
12 accordance with Code of Criminal Procedure Article 893.

13 (3)(a) Whoever commits the crime of molestation of a juvenile, when the  
14 victim is thirteen years of age or older but has not yet attained the age of ~~seventeen~~  
15 eighteen, and when the offender is an educator of the juvenile, shall be fined not  
16 more than ten thousand dollars, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not  
17 less than five nor more than forty years, or both. At least five years of the sentence  
18 imposed shall be without the benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence,  
19 and the defendant shall not be eligible to have his conviction set aside or his  
20 prosecution dismissed in accordance with Code of Criminal Procedure Article 893.

21 \* \* \*

22 §81.3. Computer-aided solicitation of a minor

23 A.(1) Computer-aided solicitation of a minor is committed when a person  
24 ~~seventeen~~ eighteen years of age or older knowingly contacts or communicates,  
25 through the use of electronic textual communication, with a person who has not yet  
26 attained the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen where there is an age difference of greater  
27 than two years, or a person reasonably believed to have not yet attained the age of  
28 ~~seventeen~~ eighteen and reasonably believed to be at least two years younger, for the  
29 purpose of or with the intent to persuade, induce, entice, or coerce the person to

1 engage or participate in sexual conduct or a crime of violence as defined in R.S.  
2 14:2(B), or with the intent to engage or participate in sexual conduct in the presence  
3 of the person who has not yet attained the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen, or person  
4 reasonably believed to have not yet attained the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen.

5 (2) It shall also be a violation of the provisions of this Section when a person  
6 ~~seventeen~~ eighteen years of age or older knowingly contacts or communicates,  
7 through the use of electronic textual communication, with a person who has not yet  
8 attained the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen where there is an age difference of greater  
9 than two years, or a person reasonably believed to have not yet attained the age of  
10 ~~seventeen~~ eighteen and reasonably believed to be at least two years younger, for the  
11 purpose of or with the intent to arrange for any third party to engage in any of the  
12 conduct proscribed by the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

13 (3) It shall also be a violation of the provisions of this Section when a person  
14 ~~seventeen~~ eighteen years of age or older knowingly contacts or communicates,  
15 through the use of electronic textual communication, with a person who has not yet  
16 attained the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen, or a person reasonably believed to have not  
17 yet attained the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen, for the purpose of recruiting, enticing, or  
18 coercing the person to engage in commercial sexual activity.

19 \* \* \*

20 (5) It shall also be a violation of the provisions of this Section when a person  
21 ~~seventeen~~ eighteen years of age or older knowingly uses another individual who is  
22 ~~seventeen~~ eighteen years of age or older to contact or communicate with a person  
23 who has not yet attained the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen and there is an age difference  
24 of greater than two years between the person contacted and the offender or a person  
25 reasonably believed to have not yet attained the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen and  
26 reasonably believed to be at least two years younger than the offender, for the  
27 purpose of or with the intent to engage in any of the conduct proscribed by Paragraph  
28 (1) of this Subsection.



1 under the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen, and no exception shall be made for a child who  
2 may be emancipated by marriage or otherwise, to:

3 \* \* \*

4 §93. Cruelty to juveniles

5 A. Cruelty to juveniles is:

6 (1) The intentional or criminally negligent mistreatment or neglect by  
7 anyone ~~seventeen~~ eighteen years of age or older of any child under the age of  
8 ~~seventeen~~ eighteen whereby unjustifiable pain or suffering is caused to said child.  
9 Lack of knowledge of the child's age shall not be a defense; ~~or~~.

10 (2) The intentional or criminally negligent exposure by anyone ~~seventeen~~  
11 eighteen years of age or older of any child under the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen to a  
12 clandestine laboratory operation as defined by R.S. 40:983 in a situation where it is  
13 foreseeable that the child may be physically harmed. Lack of knowledge of the  
14 child's age shall not be a defense.

15 (3) The intentional or criminally negligent allowing of any child under the  
16 age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen years by any person over the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen  
17 years to be present during the manufacturing, distribution, or purchasing or  
18 attempted manufacturing, distribution, or purchasing of a controlled dangerous  
19 substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law. Lack  
20 of knowledge of the child's age shall not be a defense.

21 \* \* \*

22 §93.2.3. Second degree cruelty to juveniles

23 A.(1) Second degree cruelty to juveniles is the intentional or criminally  
24 negligent mistreatment or neglect by anyone over the age of ~~seventeen~~ to any child  
25 under the age of ~~seventeen~~ eighteen which causes serious bodily injury or  
26 neurological impairment to that child.

27 \* \* \*

1 §283. Video voyeurism; penalties

2 A. Video voyeurism is any of the following:

3 \* \* \*

4 (3) The manipulation of a victim who has not yet attained the age of  
5 ~~seventeen~~ eighteen or who is reasonably believed to have not yet attained the age of  
6 ~~seventeen~~ eighteen to use any camera, videotape, photo-optical, photo-electric, or  
7 any other image recording device or an unmanned aircraft system equipped with any  
8 camera, videotape, photo-optical, photo-electric, or any other image recording device  
9 to photograph, film, or videotape oneself to send to the person manipulating the  
10 victim for a lewd or lascivious purpose.

11 \* \* \*

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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 634 Reengrossed                      2022 Regular Session                      McMahan

**Abstract:** Provides relative to certain offenses committed against minors.

Present law provides for the crimes of sexual battery, second degree sexual battery, felony carnal knowledge of a juvenile, misdemeanor carnal knowledge of a juvenile, pornography involving juveniles, molestation of a juvenile or a person with a physical or mental disability, computer-aided solicitation of a minor, illegal use of controlled dangerous substances in the presence of persons under seventeen years of age, contributing to the delinquency of juveniles, cruelty to juveniles, second degree cruelty to juveniles, and video voyeurism.

Present law further provides that the age of the offenders of those present law crimes is 17 years of age or older.

Proposed law raises the age of the offenders from 17 to 18 years of age or older.

(Amends R.S. 14:43.1(A)(3)(intro. para.) and (C)(2), 43.2(C)(2) and (3)(intro. para.), 80(A)(1), 80.1(A), 81.1(E)(5)(a) and (b) and (G)(intro. para.), 81.2(A)(1) and (2)(intro. para.), (B)(1), (2), and (3)(a), 81.3(A)(1), (2), (3) and (5), (B)(1)(a) and (c) and (C)(1), 91.13(A), 92(A)(intro. para.), 93(A), 93.2.3(A)(1), and 283(A)(3))