

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 160

BY REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

DOMESTIC ABUSE: Increases the penalties for certain domestic violence offenses that involve strangulation

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 14:34.9(L)(1) and 35.3(L)(1), relative to certain domestic
3 violence offenses; to provide relative to the maximum penalty when the offense
4 involves strangulation; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 14:34.9(L)(1) and 35.3(L)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted to
7 read as follows:

8 §34.9. Battery of a dating partner

9 * * *

10 L.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if the offense
11 involves strangulation, the offender, in addition to any other penalties imposed
12 pursuant to this Section, shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not more than ~~three~~ ten
13 years.

14 * * *

15 §35.3. Domestic abuse battery

16 * * *

17 L.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if the domestic
18 abuse battery involves strangulation, the offender, in addition to any other penalties
19 imposed pursuant to this Section, shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not more than
20 ~~three~~ ten years.

21 * * *

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)]

HB 160 Original

2026 Regular Session

Knox

Abstract: Increases the penalties for certain domestic violence offenses that involve strangulation.

Present law (R.S. 14:34.9) provides for the crime of battery of a dating partner.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that if the battery of a dating partner involves strangulation, the offender, in addition to any other penalties imposed pursuant to present law, shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not more than three years.

Proposed law amends present law to change the maximum penalty from three years to 10 years. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 14:35.3) provides for the crime of domestic abuse battery.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that if the domestic abuse battery involves strangulation, the offender, in addition to any other penalties imposed pursuant to present law, shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not more than three years.

Proposed law amends present law to change the maximum penalty from three years to 10 years. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 14:34.9(L)(1) and 35.3(L)(1))