
DIGEST

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Stokes

HB No. 569

Abstract: Authorizes district courts to designate a section or division of court for human trafficking courts and provides for certain procedures.

Present law authorizes the judges of any judicial district court, by majority vote of the judges sitting en banc, to designate a certain division or section of court as a specialized division or section having criminal, civil, drug court, driving while intoxicated court, mental health court, violent crimes or homicides, or other specialized subject matter jurisdiction.

Proposed law retains present law and adds human trafficking court as an authorized division or section.

Proposed law authorizes the presiding judge of the human trafficking court to be trained in issues of human trafficking and the support services available to victims.

Proposed law requires all prostitution-related offenses to be identified at arraignment and if not resolved, transferred to the human trafficking section of the court.

Proposed law provides that if it is determined by a judge, after a contradictory hearing that a case involves a victim in need of services, the victim shall receive the following if available:

- (1) Appropriate support services available for victims of human trafficking.
- (2) The opportunity to receive non-criminal disposition or dismissal of the case if the victim complies with mandated support services.

Present law prohibits the court from adopting rules that may designate any division or section, without its consent, as a specialized division or section for a longer period than three years.

Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 13:587.4(A) and (C); Adds R.S. 13:587.4(D))