HLS 17RS-599 ORIGINAL

2017 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY REPRESENTATIVE MORENO

CRIMINAL/VICTIMS: Directs the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab to study and make recommendations for the implementation of a tracking system relative to the status of sexual assault collection kits

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To direct the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab to study and make recommendations on the
3	implementation of and protocols for the effective use of a sexual assault collection
4	kit tracking system in Louisiana, and to report its findings to the legislature no later
5	than January 1, 2018.
6	WHEREAS, national studies indicate that approximately one in five women are
7	victims of rape in their lifetime and approximately one in twenty women suffer other sexual
8	assaults; and
9	WHEREAS, victims often turn to hospitals and local law enforcement agencies for
10	help, and because of the sense of urgency in collecting evidence of a sexual assault from a
11	victim's body, the victim must undergo examinations and questioning immediately after the
12	commission of the assault by healthcare professionals and law enforcement officials who are
13	attempting to collect evidence of the crime; and
14	WHEREAS, sexual assault collection kits are designed to assist in the preservation
15	of human biological specimen or specimens collected during a forensic medical examination
16	from the victim of a sexual assault; and
17	WHEREAS, in 2016, the state of Washington enacted legislation establishing a
18	statewide sexual assault kit tracking system; and
19	WHEREAS, Washington's system tracks the location and status of sexual assault kits
20	throughout the criminal justice process, allows medical facilities performing sexual assault

1 forensic examinations, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and other entities in custody 2 of the kits to update and track the status and location of the kits, allows victims of sexual 3 assault to anonymously track or receive updates regarding the status of their kits, and uses 4 electronic technology allowing continuous access; and 5 WHEREAS, it is important that sexual assault victims have access to information 6 about the status of their sexual assault collection kits; and 7 WHEREAS, a sexual assault collection kit tracking system would provide the state 8 with comprehensive information about the amount of kits submitted, the testing status of the 9 kits, and testing time frames; and 10 WHEREAS, it is crucial that as the tracking system develops, victim privacy is 11 strictly upheld to protect the victim's identity and safety. 12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 13 direct the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab to study and make recommendations on the 14 implementation of and protocols for the effective use of a sexual assault collection kit 15 tracking system, and to report its findings to the legislature no later than January 1, 2018. 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab is directed 17 to study and report the costs of implementation and use of a sexual assault collection kit 18 tracking system. 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab is directed 20 to study and report the benefits of using a sexual assault collection kit tracking system and 21 to review programs and protocols from other jurisdictions throughout the United States, to 22 identify best practices from those jurisdictions that have successfully implemented and used 23 a sexual assault collection kit tracking system. 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in studying and developing the 25 recommendations for the implementation of a sexual assault collection kit tracking system 26 in Louisiana, the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab is directed to solicit and obtain input 27 from various stakeholders including but not limited to healthcare professionals, law 28 enforcement agencies, and prosecutors. 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted 30 to the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab.

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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)]

HCR 26 Original

2017 Regular Session

Moreno

Directs the La. State Police Crime Lab to study and make recommendations regarding the implementation of and protocols for the effective use of a sexual assault collection kit tracking system in La., and to report its findings to the legislature no later than Jan. 1, 2018.