

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 251

BY SENATOR BARROW

CRIME/PUNISHMENT. Provides for expert testimony for defendants seeking to show justification at the time of the crime. (8/1/22)

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AN ACT

To enact Code of Evidence Art. 707 and R.S. 14:18(8), relative to expert testimony; to provide for admissibility of expert testimony regarding victims of intimate partner violence, domestic violence, or sexual violence under certain circumstances; to provide for the defense of justification when the offender is a victim of intimate partner violence, domestic violence, or sexual violence; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 2. Code of Evidence Art. 707 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 707. Expert testimony regarding victim of intimate partner violence, domestic violence, or sexual violence

A witness who is qualified as an expert, pursuant to Code of Evidence Article 702, may testify in the form of an opinion on whether a defendant is a victim of intimate partner violence, domestic violence, or sexual violence, and committed the unlawful acts as a direct result of being a victim.

Section 1. R.S. 14:18(8) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§18. Justification; general provisions

