

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 419

BY REPRESENTATIVE AMEDEE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CRIME: Creates the crime of intentional exposure to a self-spreading pathogen

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:43.8, relative to criminal law; to create the crime of intentional exposure  
3 to a self-spreading pathogen; to provide for penalties; to provide for definitions; and  
4 to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 14:43.8 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §43.8. Intentional exposure to a self-spreading pathogen

8 A. No person shall intentionally expose another to a self-spreading pathogen  
9 without the knowing and lawful consent of the victim.

10 B. For the purposes of this Section, the term "self-spreading pathogen"  
11 means an engineered virus or bacteria including any recombinant, attenuated, or  
12 modified version of any virus or bacteria, or any virus-like or bacteria-like particles  
13 or substance capable of spreading from person to person.

14 C. Whoever commits the crime of intentional exposure to a self spreading  
15 pathogen shall be fined not more than five thousand dollars, imprisoned with or  
16 without hard labor for not more than ten years, or both.

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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 419 Original

2025 Regular Session

Amedee

**Abstract:** Creates the crime of intentional exposure of a self-spreading pathogen.

Proposed law creates the crime of intentional exposure of a self-spreading pathogen.

Proposed law defines "self-spreading pathogen" as an engineered virus or bacteria including any recombinant, attenuated, or modified version of any virus or bacteria, or any virus-like or bacteria-like particles or substance capable of spreading from person to person.

Proposed law provides penalties of a fine of more than \$5,000, or imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than 10 years, or both.

(Adds R.S. 14:43.8)