

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 58

BY SENATOR CONNICK

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

CRIME/PUNISHMENT. Creates the crime of child grooming. (8/1/25)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:541(24)(a) and to enact R.S. 14:81.7, relative to sexual offenses affecting minors; to create the crime of child grooming; to provide for the elements of the offense; to provide for penalties; to define child grooming as a sex offense; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:81.7 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§81.7. Child grooming**

**A. A person commits the crime of child grooming by taking any action to persuade, induce, entice, seduce, or coerce any child under the age of thirteen years to engage in any conduct undertaken with the intent to facilitate the offender committing any lewd or lascivious act upon the child or in the presence of any child under the age of thirteen years.**

**B. In a prosecution under this Section, the finder of fact shall consider all pertinent circumstances in determining whether the state proved beyond a reasonable doubt the intent to facilitate the offender committing any lewd or lascivious act upon the child or in the presence of any child under the age of**

thirteen years, including but not limited to the following:

(1) Whether the offender's conduct with the child was undertaken without the knowledge or consent of a parent or legal guardian of the child.

(2) Whether the offender's conduct involved the isolation of the child from others.

(3) Whether the offender's conduct involved discussions or actions of a sexual nature with the child or in the presence of the child.

C. Whoever commits the crime of child grooming shall be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than fifteen years.

Section 2. R.S. 15:541(24)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§541. Definitions

For the purposes of this Chapter, the definitions of terms in this Section shall apply:

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(24)(a) "Sex offense" means deferred adjudication, adjudication withheld, or conviction for the perpetration or attempted perpetration of or conspiracy to commit human trafficking when prosecuted under the provisions of R.S. 14:46.2(B)(2), R.S. 14:46.3 (trafficking of children for sexual purposes), R.S. 14:89 (crime against nature), R.S. 14:89.1 (aggravated crime against nature), R.S. 14:89.2(B)(3) (crime against nature by solicitation), R.S. 14:80 (felony carnal knowledge of a juvenile), R.S. 14:81 (indecent behavior with juveniles), R.S. 14:81.1 (pornography involving juveniles), R.S. 14:81.2 (molestation of a juvenile or a person with a physical or mental disability), R.S. 14:81.3 (computer-aided solicitation of a minor), R.S. 14:81.4 (prohibited sexual conduct between an educator and student), **R.S. 14:81.7 (child grooming)**, R.S. 14:82.1 (prostitution; persons under eighteen), R.S. 14:82.2(C)(4) and (5) (purchase of commercial sexual activity), R.S. 14:92(A)(7) (contributing to the delinquency of juveniles), R.S. 14:93.5 (sexual battery of persons with infirmities), R.S. 14:106(A)(5) (obscenity by solicitation of a person under the age of seventeen), R.S. 14:283 (video voyeurism), R.S. 14:41 (rape), R.S. 14:42

(aggravated or first degree rape), R.S. 14:42.1 (forcible or second degree rape), R.S. 14:43 (simple or third degree rape), R.S. 14:43.1 (sexual battery), R.S. 14:43.2 (second degree sexual battery), R.S. 14:43.3 (oral sexual battery), R.S. 14:43.5 (intentional exposure to HIV), a second or subsequent conviction of R.S. 14:283.1 (voyeurism), or a second or subsequent conviction of R.S. 14:89.3 (sexual abuse of an animal), committed on or after June 18, 1992, or committed prior to June 18, 1992, if the person, as a result of the offense, is under the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections on or after June 18, 1992. A conviction for any offense provided in this definition includes a conviction for the offense under the laws of another state, or military, territorial, foreign, tribal, or federal law which is equivalent to an offense provided for in this Chapter, unless the tribal court or foreign conviction was not obtained with sufficient safeguards for fundamental fairness and due process for the accused as provided by the federal guidelines adopted pursuant to the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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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#### DIGEST

SB 58 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Connick

Proposed law creates the crime of child grooming and makes it a crime for a person to take any action to persuade, induce, entice, seduce, or coerce a child under the age of 13 to engage in any conduct intended to facilitate the offender committing a lewd or lascivious act upon the child, in the child's presence, or in the presence of another child who is under 13 years of age.

Proposed law provides that, in a prosecution for child grooming, the finder of fact must consider all pertinent circumstances to determine if the state proved, beyond a reasonable doubt, the offender's intent to violate proposed law.

Proposed law provides that a person who commits the crime of child grooming will be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than 15 years.

Proposed law adds the crime of child grooming to the present law definition of "sex offense".

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 15:541(24)(a); adds R.S. 14:81.7)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by SenateCommittee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary C to the original bill

1. Lower the age requirement for victims from under 17 years of age to under 13 years of age.
2. Remove the two year difference in age requirement between the offender and the victim.
3. Provide that the finder of fact will consider all relevant circumstances to determine if the offender's intent to violate proposed law was proven beyond a reasonable doubt.
4. Change proposed law penalties from imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for not more than five years to imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for not more than 15 years.