

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 359

BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER

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

MENTAL HEALTH: Provides relative to victims of human trafficking

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:1216.2 and R.S. 46:2168.1, relative to human trafficking; to establish
3 procedures for treating victims of human trafficking; to establish the Human
4 Trafficking in Emergency Departments Advisory Board; to require the board to
5 prepare a protocol; to require the board to report to the legislature; and to provide for
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 40:1216.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1216.2. Human trafficking; emergency department response; hospital protocols;
10 task force

11 A. When a physician encounters a patient in an emergency department who
12 exhibits signs of human trafficking, the physician shall contact the local sexual
13 assault nurse examiner to consult with the patient and develop a plan of care for the
14 patient in coordination with the treating physician.

15 B. Each of the Louisiana Department of Health's nine offices of public health
16 regions shall incorporate a regional sexual assault protocol for human trafficking as
17 a part of its annual regional sexual assault response plan. Each hospital located in
18 a particular office of a public health region shall follow its regional sexual assault
19 protocol for human trafficking.

Section 2. R.S. 46:2168.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2168.1. Louisiana Human Trafficking in Emergency Departments Task Force

A. The Louisiana Human Trafficking in Emergency Departments Task force is hereby created within the office of human trafficking prevention.

B. The task force shall draft a uniform regional sexual assault protocol for human trafficking which shall include information about signs of human trafficking and conduct an assessment of hospital emergency department knowledge of the signs of human trafficking including but not limited to the red dot process to silently signal to hospital personnel that a survivor of human trafficking requests to receive care and protection.

C. The task force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) The chair of the House Committee on Health and Welfare or his designee.

(2) The director of the office of human trafficking prevention or his designee.

(3) The chair of the of the Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission or his designee.

(4) The co-chair of the Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission or his designee.

(5) The chair of the Human Trafficking Prevention Commission Advisory Board or his designee.

(6) The co-chair of the Human Trafficking Prevention Commission Advisory Board or his designee.

(7) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.

(8) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or his designee.

(9) The superintendent of the Louisiana State Police or his designee.

(10) The president of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police or his designee.

1 (11) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association or his
2 designee.

3 (12) The executive director of the Louisiana Hospital Association or his
4 designee.

5 (13) The executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing or his
6 designee.

7 D. The chair of the House Committee on Health and Welfare or his designee
8 shall serve as the chair of the board.

9 E. The task force shall prepare and submit an annual report of its findings to
10 the governor and chairs of the House and Senate committees on health and welfare
11 no later than ninety days before the convening of the legislative session each year.

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)]

HB 359 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Miller

Abstract: Establishes procedures for physicians encountering patients who exhibit signs of human trafficking in emergency departments.

Proposed law provides that when a physician encounters a patient who exhibits signs of human trafficking, the physician shall:

- (1) Contact a sexual assault nurse examiner.
- (2) Develop a plan of care for the treatment of the patient in coordination with the treating physician.

Proposed law directs the nine office of public health regions to incorporate information about human trafficking into a regional sexual assault protocol to provide healthcare professionals and the public with information on how to spot the signs of human trafficking.

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Human Trafficking in Emergency Departments Task Force (task force).

Proposed law directs the task force to develop a uniform regional sexual assault protocol for human trafficking and conduct an assessment of hospital emergency departments knowledge of the signs of human trafficking.

Proposed law provides for membership of the task force.

Proposed law provides that the task force shall report to the legislature annually 90 days before session convenes and provide a report on its findings.

(Adds R.S. 40:1216.2 and R.S. 46:2168.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Require physicians in emergency departments encountering victims of human trafficking to consult with a sexual assault nurse examiner and develop a plan of care.
2. Require the sexual assault regional protocol to be modified to include information about human trafficking.
3. Create a task force to develop a human trafficking uniform protocol and assess hospital emergency departments for knowledge on signs of human trafficking.