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## DIGEST

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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.